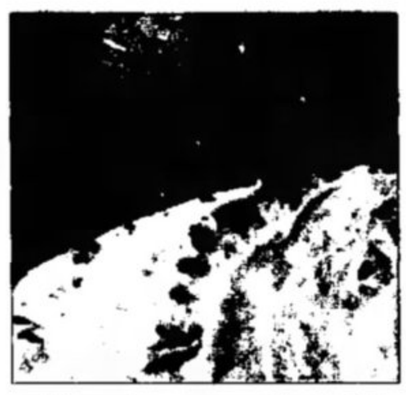
Del Rio plans familiar

Jack Del Rio is the Jaguars' coach, but his game plans have Chuck Noll and Bill Cowher written all over them. **1B**

THE Valley INDEPENDENT

An edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW



Valley Food

Pita bread no longer stands alone in the rising flatbread industry in the United States. **7-8A**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2008 RELEVANT, RELIABLE WWW.VALLEYINDEPENDENT.COM 50¢

INSIDE TODAY

'Free' calendars costly

Taxpayers bought 300,000 Capitol Calendars for lawmakers to distribute.

By DEBRA ERDLEY
For The Valley Independent
derdley@tribweb.com

House and Senate records obtained by the Commonwealth Foundation show lawmakers printed nearly 300,000 full-color 2008 Capitol Calendars. Although the bill represents only a tiny fraction of the Legislature's $330 million budget, it left activists on

they print calendars and they needed a picture of me for my calendar. I said no. They said 'You don't understand. You get those calendars at no cost to you,' and I said 'No, you don't understand. They cost the taxpayers. I don't want them.'" Eichelberger said.

taxpayers would be getting a benefit out of it."

The Senate paid $41,005 to print 56,500 calendars. The House paid $90,000 to print 240,000 calendars, records showed.

House leaders did not respond to requests for comment

Supreme Court will hear rape, death penalty case

The justices banned the punishment in such crimes against adults.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court agreed Friday to decide whether a state can execute someone convicted of raping a child, one of the few remaining crimes that does not require the death of the victim to result in capital punishment.

Patrick Kennedy, 43, was sentenced to death for the rape of his 8-year-old stepdaughter in Louisiana. He is the only person on death row in the United States for a rape that was not also accompanied by a killing.

The Supreme Court banned executions for rape in 1977 in a case in which the victim was an adult woman.

Kennedy's lawyers say the death penalty for child rape violates the Eighth Amendment protection against cruel and unusual punishment.

The justices will hear arguments in the case in April.

The last executions for rape or any other crime that did not also include the victims' death were in 1964.

Forty-five states already ban the death penalty for any kind of rape and among the other five states that in theory allow it for child rapists. Kennedy's case is the only time a state has sought to execute someone. Montana, Oklahoma, South Carolina and Texas allow executions in such cases.

The Louisiana Supreme Court upheld the sentence. "Our state legislature and this court have determined this category of aggravated rapist to be among those deserving of the death penalty, and short of first-degree murder, we can think of no other non-homicide crime more deserving," Justice Jeffrey Victory wrote.

Chief Justice Pascal Calogero dissented, saying that with the possible exception of espionage or treason, "the Eighth Amendment precludes capital punishment for any offense that does not involve the death of the victim."

The child rape case is the second capital punishment case from Louisiana this term at the Supreme Court. The justices already are considering whether a prosecutor improperly excluded blacks from a jury and then inflamed the all-white panel with references to the O.J. Simpson case.

In addition, the court is weighing whether the way Kentucky executes prisoners by lethal injection.

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Evening certificate programs
- Real Estate Salesperson - course begins March 19th
- Effective Supervision Series - course begins March 4th

California University
Daytime certificate program
- Uniform Construction Code Official Training – course begins February 5th (Distance-learning course)

Westmoreland County Community College
Evening credit course and certificate program
- Electronics Engineering Program – course begins March 10

Capital Communications Inc.
Business Performance Seminars
– seminars begin March 10

Courses offered at Mon Valley Career and Technology Center, Speers. For more information on MVCEC sponsored courses visit http://www.MVCEC.org

Yesteryear

Everything was "Fab-ulous" at the Thorofare supermarket in Charleroi in the early 1960s. At left, store manager Steve Krassa promotes the popular detergent.

If you have a good old-time photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

Weather

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
High 52 Low 42	High 58 Low 42	High 58 Low 42	High 48 Low 32	High 42 Low 32

Dangerous Dakar Ralley canceled

The threat of a terrorist attack led organizers to the decision.

By The Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Danger and the Dakar Rally have long been synonymous: Dozens have died racing from Europe across some of the world's most inhospitable terrain to the western tip of Africa.

But the threat of an al-Qaida-linked attack pushed the element of risk to levels organizers deemed unacceptable. They canceled the epic race on Friday, meaning terrorists have ensured there will be no spectacular images this year of dune buggies throwing up clouds of dust and lone motorcycle riders spinning their wheels in Saharan sands.

It was the first time that the 30-year-old rally, one of the biggest competitions in automobile racing, has been called off. The Dakar is one of the most prominent public events to be canceled since the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, when many sports events in the United States were canceled or postponed — some as a result of airport closings or in mourning for the victims.

The cancellation of such a world-renowned sports event is rare, particularly as a pre-emptive measure against terrorism. Even the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich continued, following a 34-hour pause, after 11 Israeli athletes and coaches were killed by Palestinian gunmen.

Victor Anderes, vice president of special projects at Global Security Associates, a New York-based firm that provides security for high-profile events including the 2006 Olympic Games in Turin, Italy, called the cancellation unprecedented.

"Smaller cultural events have been canceled before because of terror threats, but this hasn't happened with such a major international event," he said.

"The threat is significant," Anderes said. "It would be almost impossible to secure the entire course." He said the race is particularly vulnerable because it crosses different countries and large, unpopulated areas.

The Dakar Rally was deemed too inviting a target for al-Qaida's new north African affiliate. The roughly 550 competitors were to have embarked on Saturday from Lisbon, Portugal on the 16-day, 5,760-mile trek through remote and hostile dunes and scrub to Dakar in Senegal, west Africa. At least two dozen competitors have died in crashes and other mishaps in previous editions.

Organizers of the rally, once known as the Paris-Dakar, cited warnings from the French government about safety after the al-Qaida-linked Dec. 24 slaying of a family of French tourists in Mauritania — where eight of the competition's 15 stages were to be held — and "threats launched directly against the race by terrorist organizations."

Calendars (FROM PAGE ONE)

describing various state programs," said Erik Arneson, a spokesman for Senate Republicans.

"The calendars contain no politically motivated content," said Charlie Tocci, a spokesman for Senate Democrats. "This year's edition features Pennsylvania natives who became American military heroes."

Nathan Benefield of the Commonwealth Foundation said printing doesn't begin to cover the total cost. Benefield said the three calendars his office received each carried $1.65 postage.

"Some of the 296,500 were kept to give out by hand. If I assumed that 200,000 were mailed, that puts the total cost to taxpayers at $371,500," Benefield said.

A spokesman for Gov. Ed Rendell said his boss steers clear of the calendars.

"Printing the calendars is clearly a legislative prerogative and it's up to the Legislature to decide if doing so is the wisest use of taxpayer money," spokesman Charles Ardo said.

"At the governor's insistence, from his earliest days in Harrisburg, the Rendell administration has taken every opportunity to eliminate spending on those kinds of promotional items."

Council (FROM PAGE ONE)

part of the technical college program being developed by the council, state Rep. Pete Daley, the Mon Valley Career and Technology Center in Speers and Westmoreland County Community College.

The board approved an application for a grant that could help a Donora business to expand. The resolution gives the council the authority to apply for a $300,000 grant under the Washington County Share Account. That account was developed under the economic development fund driven by gaming revenue.

The grant would help pay for a $350,000 expansion being eyed by SAR Industries, the company that occupies the 15,200-square-foot industrial building in the MIDA park.

The company hopes to expand by 5,000-square feet its operations in the building owned by the progress council. Six additional jobs would be created, Kirk said, nearly doubling the staff.

SAR manufactures pre-formed plastic millwork used as trim on buildings. It has a business agreement with Maronda Homes.

The progress council plans to assist Solar Power Industries expand its operations at the Rostraver Airpark. The company purchased from the progress council additional property at the site for expansion purposes.

Roles (FROM PAGE ONE)

Seeing that, Ference's journalist instinct kicked in and he began to snap of the accident scene.

"But she started screaming, 'My baby! My baby!'" Ference said.

Ference soon realized the woman's 3-year-old son was strapped in a car seat in the front, passenger side of the vehicle.

He immediately tried to reach the child through the broken window. Because the child was buckled into the seat, Ference was unable to pull the child through the window.

Another motorist ran a couple hundred yards to seek help from police at the landslide site.

Ference and yet another passing motorist, Bob Kyle, of Fallowfield Township, went to the other side of the car and opened the door.

As they held the door open, Reddick crawled inside, freed the child and handed him to Ference.

The photographer passed the child on to a nurse who had come upon the crash.

"He kept saying, 'thank-you,'" Ference said of the toddler.

Within moments, Carroll Township police were on the scene.

Brand said Reddick was taken to Monongahela Valley Hospital in Carroll Township for blood alcohol testing.

The chief said Reddick was driving greater than the speed limit, without a license, and that empty beer bottles were found in her vehicle.

Brand said he was not sure if the beer bottles had recently been opened.

He said Reddick's child was not properly restrained.

The youngster was strapped into a booster seat, which is not a suitable restraint system for a 3-year-old, Brand said.

Brand said hospital personnel notified children and youth services about the incident.

Staff Writer Jeff Pikulsky contributed to this report.

Valley briefs

Woman charged in suicide attempt

MONESSEN – A woman appeared in court Friday accused of assisting a cellmate's suicide attempt while the two were in the city lockup Dec. 26

Denise Sanabria, 29, of 315 First St., Monessen waived her right to a preliminary hearing before Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso.

According to an affidavit of probable cause, Sanabria allegedly gave a woman in the jail a surgical staple.

The recipient used the staple as a tool to cut her own wrist. The staple previously was in Sanabria's leg.

It is not clear why the women were in the jail.

The woman cut a 2-inch gash in her wrist, which already had stitches from a previous suicide attempt, the affidavit stated.

Sanabria is charged with aggravated assault, simple assault and recklessly endangering another person. The victim was taken to Monongahela Valley Hospital in Carroll Township for treatment.

Numerous Wecht charges dropped

PITTSBURGH (AP) – U.S. District Judge Arthur Schwab allowed prosecutors to drop more than half the charges filed against pathologist Cyril Wecht, but only with prejudice – meaning the counts cannot be refiled.

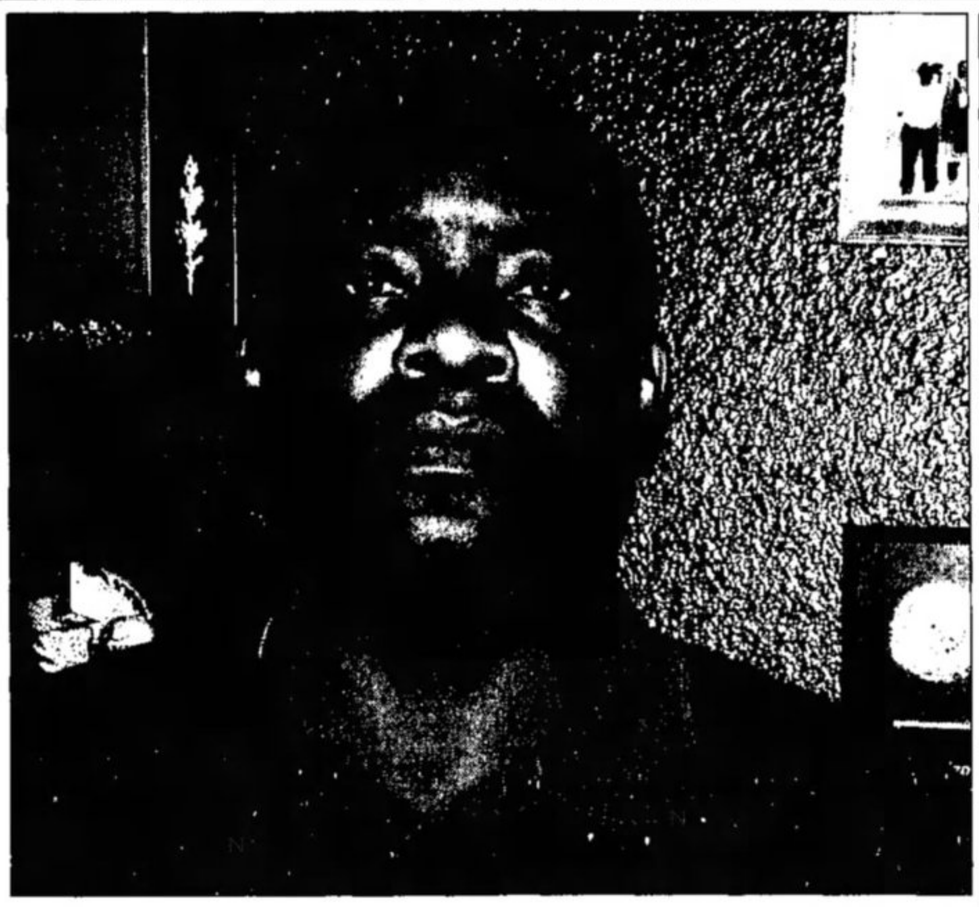
Federal prosecutors filed a motion last month to drop 43 of 84 counts to "streamline" their case, but they also wanted to retain the right to refile the charges later.

Wecht's attorneys contend the charges being dropped were false and shoddily investigated, and argued that eliminating them would enable prosecutors to hide the weak parts of their case. Wecht, 76, is accused of using his public office and Allegheny County staff to benefit his multimillion-dollar private pathology practice.

Candymakers face lawsuits

HARRISBURG (AP) – The Hershey Co. and other candy-makers have been sued in New Jersey and Pennsylvania by suppliers and consumers alleging a price-fixing scheme.

The three suits cited news reports that authorities in Canada and the U.S. are looking into chocolate industry pricing practices. The complaints seek class-action status.



Vernon Holmes began his athlethic career as a schoolboy in Monessen. Now living in Arizona, he promotes high school athletes.

Monessen graduate going to 'Xstream'

His playing days over, Vernon Holmes promotes young athletes.

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

ex

A weekly look at people who left the Valley

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Vernon Holmes grew up loving sports in Monessen.

Even though he played as many sports as he could in high school, an injury that wiped out his junior season pretty much kept him from accomplishing many of his goals.

However, that didn't stop the 1977 Monessen High School graduate from staying involved in athletics.

After two years in college, Holmes left Monessen for good in 1979 when he joined the U.S. Air Force.

He served in the military for eight years and while doing so, joined the semi-pro football team at Langley Air Force Base in Virginia.

"I played there for five years and we won the league championship when I played," Holmes said proudly.

In 1984, he moved to the Phoenix area where he remains. Today, he is a computer programmer for Arizona Public Service, an electric company.

While Holmes left his playing career in Virginia, he did not end his involvement in athletics. Since moving to Arizona, Holmes has coached either football or basketball – or both – on the high school and collegiate levels.

He also served as head coach of the Avandale (Ariz.) Vipers, a semi-pro football team that folded because of finances.

Holmes coached at Aqua Fria High School in Avandale, Millennium High School in Glendale, Glendale Community College, and Phoenix College. Today, he is an assistant basketball coach at Aqua Fria.

Plus, another venture is proving to be successful.

Holmes runs Xstream Development, a scouting and recruiting service for high school and junior college athletes who hope to land Division I scholarships in football, basketball and baseball.

As part of the service, Holmes brings in athletes and works them out, videos them, and then sends the tapes to colleges and universities.

The Web site is www.xstreamdevelopment.com.

"I don't do just Arizona. I try to have kids from everywhere," Holmes said. "In fact, I have some kids from the Mon Valley who I am putting together profiles on to send to colleges."

Holmes has been keeping his eye on Monessen junior football player Kevin Parker, who recently was named to the Associated Press All-State team.

Holmes, however, admits that he has other reasons for following Parker's career from afar.

"He's my nephew," he said.

Holmes stays in touch with his hometown area as much as possible and still has many relatives and friends in Monessen.

"I come home at least once a year," he said.

Holmes and his wife, the former Ruth Karenchak, went to Monessen High School together and have been married for nearly 27 years.

They have three children. Ashley and Bradley Holmes are graduates of Arizona University. Bradley played football at the school.

Their youngest son, Ryan, is at Pepperdine University, where he is the school's starting point guard.

"They play Memphis this weekend and I will be there," he said.

Two face trial for cop chase

One suspect told police they traded crack cocaine for the car.

MONESSEN – Two women who allegedly led police on a high-speed chase Dec. 27 face trials on multiple charges.

Joy E. Cochran, 37, of 521 Washington Ave., lower apartment, Charleroi, and Tricia Kauffman, 37, of 26 Sampson St., Belle Vernon, appeared Friday in Monessen before Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso. They waived their rights to preliminary hearings.

According to an affidavit of probable cause, Monessen police stopped Kauffman's car 3:07 a.m. Dec. 26 on East Schoonmaker Avenue for a traffic violation.

She allegedly gave police false identification. When the officer went to his patrol car to check her identification, Kauffman allegedly took off.

A chase ensued on Route 906, into Webster, Rostraver Township, with speeds nearing 100 mph, according to the affidavit.

At one point during the chase, Kauffman lost control of the car, hit a monument and a grassy area and kept driving.

Elizabeth Township police caught up with the car on Route 136, not far from West Newton.

The car ended up becoming stuck in a ditch off of Coal Hollow Road. Rostraver Township police held the women at gunpoint until other officers arrived, according to the affidavit.

Once in custody, Cochran allegedly told police they were given the car in exchange for crack cocaine and she attempted to drive the car out of the ditch.

Kauffman allegedly had in her possession a Santa stocking in her purse that contained suspected Xanax pills and drug paraphernalia.

Cochran is charged with aggravated assault, theft, criminal conspiracy, fleeing or attempting to elude police, driving with a suspended license, and criminal mischief.

Kauffman is charged with manufacture of a controlled substance, aggravated assault, criminal mischief, criminal conspiracy, fleeing or attempting to elude police, recklessly endangering another person, theft, possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and giving false identification to police.

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Neighbor faces assault charges

The alleged attack also involved the suspect's dog.

MONESSEN – A city man allegedly assaulted his neighbor and held her at gunpoint.

Blaine Stinogle Jr., 26, of 1340 Allison St., appeared before Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso Friday for the alleged assault of Kathy Vivio. The incident allegedly took place Dec. 23 in the basement of Stinogle's home.

In an affidavit of probable cause, police said Stinogle called Vivio for assistance with his dog. Once there, he allegedly pushed her onto the floor and pointed a gun at the woman.

He obtained a roll of Duct tape and began taping her mouth. As Vivio struggled, Stinogle's dog bit her several times on the left hand.

Vivio then grabbed Stinogle's genitals and was able to escape.

Police said Vivio had numerous cuts on her face, Duct tape in her hair and puncture wounds on her hand.

Stinogle is charged with aggravated assault, false imprisonment, crime committed with a firearm, unlawful restraint, simple assault, terroristic threats, and former convict not to own a firearm.

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DEATH NOTICES

BANES — Harold W. "Punkin" Banes, formerly of Ellsworth, on Friday, Jan. 4. Thompson-Marodi Funeral Home Inc., Bentleyville.

DEEMS — Clara L. Deems, 75, of Coal Center (Clover Hill), on Friday, Jan. 4. Greenlee Funeral Home, Beallsville.*

TOTH — Lucille E. Toth, 96, of Charleroi, on Friday, Jan. 4. Carl J. Spallino Funeral Home, Charleroi.*

YOUNG — William Young, 79, of New Eagle, on Thursday, Jan. 3. Frye Funeral Home Inc., Monongahela.*

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
FARMER, Margaret A.*
NEWMEYER, John J.*
*** See death notice**

Clara L. Deems
Coal Center (Clover Hill)

Clara Lee Harris Deems, 75, of Coal Center (Clover Hill), died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, in her home following a lengthy illness. She was born Oct. 5, 1932, in Van Voorhis, a daughter of the late Joseph Harris and Loretta B. Brewer Harris. Mrs. Deems dedicated her life to children's equal education. After receiving her bachelor's degree in 1954 from California University of Pennsylvania, she was a math and English instructor in Armell Township. After receiving her master's degree from the University of Pittsburgh, Mrs. Deems became a clinical psychologist for the Mon Valley Health Center and the Centerville Clinic. She went on to become the psychologist and supervisor of special education for the Ringgold School District. Following her retirement in 1991, Mrs. Deems was a member and past president of the Mental Health Association of Washington County. She was the past president of the BCR Lioness Club, secretary of the BCR Lions Club and a charter member of the Bentleyville Lioness Club. Mrs. Deems belonged to Grace United Methodist Church for over 50 years. She is survived by one daughter, Connie (Frank) Palfrey, of Peters Township; one son, Charles L. Deems, of Coal Center; two sisters, Jorene D'orazio, of Bentleyville, and Shirley Tambourine, of Marianna; four grandchildren, Frank Jr. (Suzanne), Eric, Lyndon (Natalie) and Cara Palfrey; five great-grandchildren, Lily, Sadie, Tyler, Avery and Joshua Palfrey; and several nieces and nephews. Deceased, in addition to her parents, is her husband, Charles "Lindy" Lindbergh Deems, who died on Oct. 25, 2006; and two sisters, Laura Pierce and Ethel Morris. Friends will be received from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday in the JOHN B. GREENLEE FUNERAL HOME, 2830 Main St., Beallsville, where services will be held Tuesday, Jan. 8, with the Rev. Randy Landman officiating. Interment will follow in Beallsville Cemetery. Contributions may be made to: Mental Health Association of Washington County, 15 South College St., Washington, Pa. 15301. An on-line guest book and personal condolences may be accessed at www.GreenleeFuneralHome.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

John J. Newmeyer
Greensburg
Formerly of Charleroi

John J. Newmeyer, 81, of Greensburg, formerly of Charleroi, died Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2008, in St. Anne Home, Greensburg. He was born June 22, 1926, in Large (Allegheny County), a son of the late Jack and Agnes Stankus Newmeyer. John was a member of the former St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church in Charleroi and a member of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, where he was active in many ministries. He also was a member of the Serra Club, the Knights of Columbus and the St. Vincent College Development Club. John was employed as a dispatcher by Allegheny (West Penn) Power in Charleroi and Greensburg. John was a World War II veteran of the U.S. Army Air Corps. He is survived by his wife, Pauline T. Roscoe Newmeyer; eight children, Bill (Laurie) Newmeyer, of Bel Air, Md., Dave (Wanda) Roscoe, of Pleasant Unity, JJ (Paulette) Newmeyer, of Morgantown, W.Va., Linda Tanner, of Elmira, N.Y., Marian (Mike) Kohan, of Erie, Paul (Marianne) Newmeyer, of Cranberry, Anne (Pete) Poncheri, of Reading, and Mark (Sonya) Newmeyer, of Westmoreland City; one daughter-in-law, Karen (Sam) Haines, of Rices Landing; one niece, Sharon (Larry) Schifano, of Bethel Park; 27 grandchildren, Joe, Krisi, Bill, Barbara, Julianna, Sarah, Josh and Lilliana Newmeyer, Rita (Jeremy) Sutherland, Maria (Bernie) McNally, Matt and Mark Kohan, Rachel, Eric and Gina Siciliano, Zac (Mel) and Rachel Marie Poncheri, Michelle (Matt) Schlegel, Amanda and Donnie DeLeva, Jason (Maggie) Zimmerman, Sarah (Matt) Voisin, Paul, Ben and Samantha Washnock, and Samantha and Hunter Haines; and three great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Lillian Doroban Newmeyer; one son, Richard Newmeyer; and his brother, William Newmeyer. Relatives and friends are invited to celebrate John's life on Sunday from 3 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the CLEMENT L. PANTALONE FUNERAL HOME INC., Natale N. Pantalone, Supervisor, 409 West Pittsburgh St., Greensburg (724-837-0020). A prayer service will be held Monday, Jan. 7, at 9 a.m. in the funeral home, followed by a Funeral Mass in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 9:30 a.m. Interment will be in Calvary Cemetery, Charleroi at 12:30 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: St. Vincent Seminary, 300 Frazier Purchase Road, Latrobe, Pa. 15650; Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, 300 North Main St., Greensburg, Pa. 15601; or to the charity of one's choice. www.pantalone.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Margaret A. Farmer
Belle Vernon

Margaret A. Campbell Farmer, 84, of Belle Vernon (Rostraver Township), died Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, at the home of her daughter in Ruffsdale. Born April 26, 1923, in Donora, she was the daughter of the late Francis and Regina Riley Campbell. Margaret was an executive secretary on the Donora Southern Railroad before resigning to raise her family. She was a true friend, wonderful listener and practitioner of quiet acts of kindness. Margaret was an outstandingly loving Irish wife, mother and grandmother with a great sense of humor. Her gifts as a mother extended well beyond her own children. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Bill, in November 2006. She is survived by a son, Richard W. Farmer and wife, Beth, of Oakton, Va.; three daughters, Mary Ann Farmer and husband, David Heisler, of Greensburg, Joyce Farmer and husband, Jeff Gruskiewicz, of Ruffsdale, and Sally Granlund and husband, Art, of Belle Vernon; and nine grandchildren, Katie, Rob and Gretchen Heisler, Matthew and Ryan Farmer, Brandon, Chris and Jocelyn Gruskiewicz, and Bill Granlund. In addition to her husband and parents, she was preceded in death by her brother, Francis Campbell; and her sister, June Mouyard. Friends will be received Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m. in the JAMES C. STUMP FUNERAL HOME INC., 580 Circle Drive, Belle Vernon/Rostraver Township (724-929-7934); www.jamesstumpfuneralhome.com, where a Blessing Service will be held Monday, Jan. 7, at 9:15 a.m., followed by a Funeral Mass at 10 a.m. in Seven Dolors Roman Catholic Church, Yukon, with the Very Rev. Kenneth C. Zaccagnini officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Carroll Township. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to The William and Margaret Farmer "Acts of Kindness" Memorial Scholarship Fund in care of Richard W. Farmer, executor.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Lucille E. Toth
Charleroi

Lucille E. Toth, 96, of Charleroi, died Friday, Jan. 4, 2008, in The New Dawn Thorpe's Personal Care Home, North Charleroi. She was born Nov. 1, 1911, in Pleasant Valley, a daughter of the late Thomas and Mary Kerpeck Smith. She was a member of Mary, Mother of the Church Parish of Charleroi. Lucille was the loving mother of her son, Charles Toth and wife, Henrietta, of Carroll Township; and daughter, Judith Fisher, of Charleroi. She is also survived by three brothers, George Smith, of Greensburg, Joseph Smith, of Belle Vernon, and Thomas Smith, of Greensburg; one sister, Dolores Tomajko, of New Stanton; two loving grandchildren, Chad Toth and Beth Ortosky; and four loving great-grandchildren, Justin and Shannon Ortosky and Ryan and Morgan Toth. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Toth; one son, John Toth; seven sisters and one brother. Friends will be received in the CARL J. SPALLINO FUNERAL HOME, 819 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, on Sunday from 6 to 8 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, Jan. 7, at 10 a.m. in Mary, Mother of the Church with the Rev. David F. Dzermejko, pastor, officiating. Interment will follow in Youngwood Cemetery.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

William Young
New Eagle

William "Charlie" Young, 79, of New Eagle, died Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008, in Meadowcrest Nursing Center, Bethel Park. He was born Oct. 10, 1928, in New Eagle, a son of George and Margaret "Lundy" Rumez Petrunia. Charlie was a graduate of Monongahela High School. For many years he owned and operated an ARCO service station in Clairton. Charlie retired after 20 years as an insurance agent for Prudential Life Insurance Company, working predominantly in Clairton and Jefferson Hills. He was a peacetime veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, a former school board member in Clairton and a member of the Clairton Lions Club, where he was past president and secretary. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Jenny L. Regal Young; two daughters, Patricia Tatar and husband, Richard, of Monongahela, and Lisa Porto and George Bandalo, of Woodbridge, Va.; three grandchildren, Lyndsi K. Porto, Christopher J. (Tracy) Tatar, and Brianna L. (Christopher) Vesely; and one great-granddaughter, Jaclyn Ann Tatar. Friends will be received Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. in the FRYE FUNERAL HOME INC., 427 West Main St., Monongahela (724-258-6136), where services will be held Monday, Jan. 7, at 11 a.m. with the Rev. Glen McClelland officiating. Committal services and interment will follow in Monongahela Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made towards the activities fund at Meadowcrest, 1200 Braun Road, Bethel Park, Pa. 15102.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Local law enforcement officer and Taser instructor Doug Scholz, right, answers questions from Lori Bosken, left, and Jamie Heyer, both of Chandler, Ariz., regarding the differences between the police issued Taser and the new commercial model Taser C2.

Taser parties get start from fear

Safety concerns spur interest in protection.

GILBERT, Ariz. (AP) — Before she lets them shoot her little pink stun gun, Dana Shafman ushers her new friends to the living room sofa for a serious chat about the fears she believes they all share.

"The worst nightmare for me is, while I'm sleeping, someone coming in my home," Shafman says, drawing a few solemn nods from the gathered women. Shafman, 34, of Phoenix, says she knows how they feel. She says she used to stash knives under her pillow for protection.

Welcome, she says, to the Taser party.

On the coffee table, Shafman spreads out Taser's C2 "personal protector" weapons that the company is marketing to the public. It doesn't take long before the women are lined up in the hallway, whooping as they take turns blasting at a metallic target.

"C'mon!" she says. "Give it a shot."

Shafman isn't an employee for Scottsdale, Ariz.-based Taser International. She's an independent entrepreneur who's been selling Tasers the way her mother's generation sold plastic food storage containers.

As a single woman who lives alone, Shafman says she's the perfect pitchwoman for Taser as it makes a renewed push to sell weapons to families.

The company agrees. Taser officials like Shafman's homespun sales tactics so much that they plan to build a living room set at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and have Shafman hold a Taser party for buyers and dealers. The CES, which runs from Jan. 7-10, is the world's largest tech trade show.

Taser doesn't expect its dealers to start imitating Shafman. But spokesman Steve Tuttle says company officials think people can learn from her approach.

"When I talk about Taser, I come across as a salesman," Tuttle says. "When you see her it comes across as very real."

Shafman, a freelance construction consultant, says she always had a natural interest in self defense products. She loved the idea of the Taser, which would allow her to stop an attacker from across the room without getting physical.

She tried moonlighting as a door-to-door Taser saleswoman. But years of negative press about Taser made it tough.

"I got tired of being pushed out of people's offices," she says. "Nobody wants to purchase a product that they think is lethal or going to kill somebody."

A lot of people, especially women, need time to get comfortable with a unique product like Taser before they'll consider buying one, Shafman says.

So the Taser party was born.

Shafman says she's sold about 30 guns per month at $349.99 since her first Taser party on Oct. 15. She doesn't get a commission from Taser. Instead, Shafman says she gets a discounted dealer rate for the units and keeps the difference.

Taser has been surging on Wall Street two years after the Securities and Exchange Commission concluded its investigation into the company's safety claims and business practices. Its stock more than doubled in 2007 from a low of $7.44 to a high in 2007 of $19.36 a share.

Company officials say they're now selling Tasers in 43 countries and more than 12,500 police agencies in the U.S. are either using or testing their weapons. With its weapons dominant in law enforcement, Taser is turning its attention back to the civilian market.

It launched the C2 in August. Though it packs the same electric punch, the C2 is smaller than the bulky personal stun guns Taser developed years ago, and its sleek exterior makes it look more like an electric razor than a weapon. They're legal in every state but New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, Wisconsin, Hawaii, and Washington D.C.

DISTRICT JUDGE

Joseph Dalfonso

The following people appeared Friday before Magisterial District Judge Joseph Dalfonso for preliminary hearings:

■Rayford Allen, 45, 515 Chestnut St., Monessen; charged with theft, criminal mischief, criminal trespass and burglary Sept. 26 at 208 McKee Ave., Monessen; charges were waived to court.

■Mecca L. Reddick, 32, 533 Park Ave., Monongahela; charged with retail theft and terroristic threats Nov. 23 at Family Dollar, Monessen; charges were waived to court.

■Melvin N. Gray, 21, 17 Mrocheck Road, Gastonville; charged with theft by deception and criminal conspiracy Nov. 20 at Wal-Mart; charges were waived to court.

■Jeffrey C. Poland, 40, of 203 Second St., Smithton; charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, unauthorized transfer or use of registration and required financial responsibility Nov. 28 on the 400 block of McKee Ave., Monessen; charges were waived to court.

■Richardo McPherson, 39, of 765 Ross Ave., Monessen; charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and disorderly conduct Oct. 26. He was allegedly running through his neighbor's yard, claiming their basset hound dog was a person who wanted to harm him. The case was waived to court.

■Erika Saxberg, 37, 361 Turkey Hollow Road, Belle Vernon; charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and retail theft Nov. 17 at Wal-Mart; charges were waived to court.

■John Saxberg, 39, of 521 Blind Lane, Belle Vernon; charged with possession of drug paraphernalia Nov. 17 at Wal-Mart. The case was waived to court.

Man accused of taking $20 from a toddler's piggy bank

SHEBOYGAN, Wis. (AP) — Ryan A. Mueller may go down as the meanest thief of all time.

Or maybe just the most desparate.

He has been charged with sneaking into a toddler's bedroom and stealing $20 from a piggy bank while the 2-year-old girl slept.

Authorities say DNA evidence linked Mueller, 30, of Sheboygan Falls to the crime that occurred Aug. 10 in Wilson.

Authorities say the girl's mother was in another room with another child when she saw a light turn on in her 2-year-old daughter's room.

She walked into the girl's bedroom and saw a man shaking the piggy bank as the girl slept.

The man fled before police arrived, stealing the money but leaving the piggy bank. Authorities say blood was found on a window blind where the burglar had forced his way into the home.

Mueller was charged Thursday with felony burglary, which carries a penalty of up to 9 1/2 years in prison.

His bond was set at $10,000, and a preliminary hearing was set for next Wednesday.

Messages left Friday for his defense attorney, the prosecutor in the case and for Mueller at the jail were not immediately returned.

In Memory Of
Henry Indof, Jr.
A Birthday Tribute, January 4, in loving memory of our beloved father and grandfather, Henry Indof, Jr., who would have been 65 years old. There are days I want to sit and cry, I did not get to say goodbye. I miss seeing your happy face, no one could ever take your place. I want you to know, I love and miss you so.
Sadly missed by your Children and Grandchildren.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Saturday, Jan. 5, the fifth day of 2008. There are 361 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight:

On Jan. 5, 1896, an Austrian newspaper reported the discovery by German physicist Wilhelm Roentgen of a type of radiation that came to be known as X-rays.

On this date:

■ In 1589, Catherine de Medici of France died at age 69.

■ In 1781, a British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burned Richmond, Va.

■ In 1895, French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, was publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

■ In 1925, Nellie T. Ross became governor of Wyoming; she was the first female governor in U.S. history. (She succeeded Frank E. Lucas, who had served as acting governor following the death of Ross' husband, William B. Ross.)

■ In 1933, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, died in Northampton, Mass., at age 60.

■ In 1949, in his State of the Union address, President Harry Truman labeled his administration the Fair Deal.

■ In 1957, President Eisenhower proposed military assistance to Middle Eastern countries to help them resist Communist aggression; this became known as the Eisenhower Doctrine.

■ In 1970, Joseph A. Yablonski, an unsuccessful candidate for the presidency of the United Mine Workers of America, was found murdered with his wife and daughter at their Clarksville, Pa., home. UMW President Anthony Boyle and three others were convicted of the killings.

■ In 1972, President Nixon ordered development of the space shuttle.

■ In 1994, Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in Boston at age 81.

■ **Ten years ago**: Sonny Bono, the 1960's pop star-turned-politician, was killed when he struck a tree while skiing in South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; he was 62.

■ **Five years ago**: Two Palestinian suicide bombers set off back-to-back blasts in a central Tel Aviv area crowded with foreign workers, killing 23 bystanders in the bloodiest attack in six months. Chinese media reported that an unmanned Chinese space capsule had returned safely to Earth.

■ **One year ago**: The White House announced a planned shuffling of U.S. military leaders in the Iraq war. (Admiral William Fallon ended up replacing Gen. John Abizaid as top U.S. commander in the Middle East; Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus succeeded General George Casey as top American general in Iraq.

■ **Today's Birthdays**: Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale is 80. Actor Robert Duvall is 77. Football Hall-of-Fame coach Chuck Noll is 76. King Juan Carlos of Spain is 70. Actress Diane Keaton is 62. Actress Pamela Sue Martin is 55. Actor Clancy Brown is 49. Singer Iris Dement is 47. Rock singer Marilyn Manson is 39.

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Associated Press

Iraqi Shiites attend Friday prayers at the shrine of Imam Mousa al-Kazim in Baghdad. Men and women are separated in many ways in the nation. But in recent months, suicide attacks by females have risen.

More women launch Iraq suicide attacks

Many are calling the strikes a desperation strategy by insurgents.

By The Associated Press

BAGHDAD – It goes against religious taboos in Iraq to involve women in fighting, but three recent suicide bombings carried out by women could indicate insurgents are growing increasingly desperate.

The female suicide attacks come as U.S.-led coalition forces are increasingly catching militants suspected of training women to become human bombs or finding evidence of efforts by al-Qaida in Iraq to recruit women, according to military records.

With coalition forces pushing extremists out of former strongholds and shrinking their pool of potential recruits, the militants are being forced to come up with other methods to penetrate stiffened security measures, said Diaa Rashwan, who follows Islamic militancy for Egypt's Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies.

"There's a sense that this is an act of desperation," said Col. Donald Bacon, a U.S. military spokesman in Baghdad.

Female suicide bombers are a small part of the insurgents' battle to force U.S. troops from Iraq and rattle Shiites from newly acquired power.

Women have been responsible for 14 of 667 suicide attacks since May 2005, or 2 percent.

They have caused at least 107 deaths, or 5 percent of the 2,065 people killed during this time period, according to Associated Press statistics.

But those attacks appear to be increasing.

In November and December, women carried out three suicide bombings in Diyala province, one of Iraq's most violent areas, where al-Qaida in Iraq has a stronghold. The last female suicide bombing had been in July.

On Nov. 4, a woman detonated an explosives vest next to a U.S. patrol in Diyala's regional capital, Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, wounding seven U.S. troops and five Iraqis.

On Dec. 7, a woman attacked the offices of a Diyala-based Sunni group fighting al-Qaida in Iraq, killing 15 people and wounding 35.

Then, on Dec. 31, a bomber in Baqouba detonated her suicide vest close to a police patrol, wounding five policemen and four civilians.

Devastating attacks continue in Iraq even as Iraqi casualties are down by 55 percent nationwide since June 2007, according to an AP count.

American and Iraqi forces, and thousands of Sunni tribal groups who turned against al-Qaida in Iraq, have pushed the extremist group from Baghdad and Anbar province west of the capital.

The al-Qaida fighters have moved into Diyala northeast of Baghdad and farther north into Mosul, 225 miles northwest of the capital.

The tightening noose – at least for now – appears to be prompting the militants to turn to women attackers, Rashwan said, noting that extremist Muslim groups use women only when they see no alternative.

"Women should be in the last rows" of fighting, he said. "So to see women (suicide bombers) shows an abnormal situation — the absence of men."

Bush out to boost economy

A tax rebate is possible as a means to avoid a recession.

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) – The Bush administration, faced with a deteriorating economy and a big jump in unemployment, said Friday it was considering an economic stimulus package that might include tax cuts to ward off a recession.

Officials stressed that President Bush has not decided yet to offer a proposal but was looking at a variety of options with a plan possibly being unveiled around the time of his Jan. 28 State of the Union address.

"The president is always looking at options ... always talking to people and looking at data," Commerce Secretary Carlos Gutierrez said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Bush met Friday with top economic officials including Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who are part of the president's working group on financial markets, a group formed after the 1987 stock market crash to monitor markets.

The president was given an assessment of how the economy is behaving and how financial markets are performing after the severe credit squeeze that hit in August.

A number of big financial institutions have declared multibillon-dollar losses because of rising defaults in the subprime mortgage market. White House spokesman Tony Fratto said tax cuts were an option being considered.

Bush in his first term included a tax refund of up to $300 per person to combat the impact of the 2001 recession. Private economists said another round of tax cuts would be the best approach to get money to people who would spend it.

Some suggested a one-year tax rebate of $500 might provide a sufficient shot-in-the-arm for the economy. But they stressed that the proposal would have to be passed quickly.

"The critical time is the first part of this year. If it doesn't get passed until just before the November election, it will be totally useless," said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor's in New York.

Dan Danner, executive vice president for public policy for the National Federation of Independent Business, said his group and other business organizations will be lobbying for tax incentives to be included in any stimulus package.

"We are very hopeful that as the administration looks at economic stimulus, they will look at the sector that has helped keep the economy afloat and that is small business," Danner said.

Former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, who served in the Clinton administration, said in a speech last month that a stimulus package of $50 billion to $75 billion of temporary tax cuts and emergency spending would be needed to avoid what he said could be the worst recession since the steep 1981-82 downturn.

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THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Amy Fisher cashes in

NEW YORK (AP) – Former "Long Island Lolita" Amy Fisher is joining her husband in trying to market a sex tape, saying, "I always wanted to be No. 1 at something, but I didn't think it would be something like this."

Fisher said her husband, Louis Bellera, sold the sex tape to Red Light District video of Los Angeles in August when he and Fisher were divorcing. They have since reconciled, and Fisher said she took a six-figure payout rather than fight to have the video pulled from the Internet.

As a teenager, Fisher was sent to prison for seven years for shooting Mary Jo Buttafuoco, the wife of her former lover, Joey Buttafuoco. Buttafuoco, twice her age, served time for statutory rape for having sex with a 16-year-old.

Escape plan fails

ATLANTA (AP) — The man awaiting trial for a bloody escape at the Atlanta courthouse in 2005 is suspected of enlisting his pen-pal girlfriend, a paralegal and at least two sheriff's deputies in a scheme to break out again, according to law enforcement documents obtained by The Associated Press.

Brian Nichols allegedly plotted to cut his way through the cinderblock walls of the Fulton County Jail, jump into a waiting van and make his way to his girlfriend up north. Nichols, 36, faces murder and other charges in the March 11, 2005, escape and shooting rampage that began at a downtown courthouse and left four people dead.

Settlements break deal

JERUSALEM (AP) – Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in an unprecedented public acknowledgment, called continued Israeli construction in West Bank settlements a breach of Israel's obligations under a recently revived peace plan.

The remarks, published Friday in The Jerusalem Post daily, came just days before President Bush arrives in the region to build on the momentum created at a Mideast peace conference in Annapolis, Md.

Bush, in a separate interview, urged Israel to uphold its commitment to remove the settlement outposts in the West Bank.

Israel has long maintained it has the right to continue building in existing settlements to account for "natural growth" of the existing population – something the peace plan explicitly bans.

Pet food maker OKs settlement

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) – A company that made contaminated pet food that killed dozens of dogs nationwide will pay $3.1 million in a settlement with pet owners, an attorney said Friday.

The pet food, which contained a mold called aflatoxin, was produced at Diamond Pet Foods' plant in South Carolina. The company will establish a fund to reimburse pet owners for the loss of their dog, veterinarian bills and the cost of any unreturned contaminated food, said attorney Jim Andrews, who represented a Knoxville, Tenn., family that sued the company. Diamond Pet Foods, based in Meta, Mo., acknowledged that workers at its Gaston, S.C., plant failed to follow internal testing procedures to ensure its products were safe.

Part of Vioxx deal challenged

NEW ORLEANS (AP) – Lawyers for hundreds of people who sued Merck & Co. over its withdrawn painkiller Vioxx are challenging a key provision of a proposed $4.85 billion settlement that requires lawyers to advise all or none of their clients to accept the deal.

Plaintiffs lawyers who negotiated the settlement said Friday they expect the challenge will be withdrawn, as a similar one filed last month was.

Lawyers for about 2,600 plaintiffs asked a U.S. District Court judge in New Orleans to rule that portions of the settlement can't be enforced in all states because it prevents lawyers from giving clients their "independent professional advice."

'PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5'

One player grabs 'Cash 5' jackpot

HARRISBURG (AP) – One player matched all five winning numbers drawn in Friday's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" game and will collect a jackpot worth $200,000. Lottery officials said 157 players matched four numbers and won $295.50 each; 4,491 players matched three numbers and won $11 each; and 49,916 players matched two numbers and won $1 each.

Valley LOTTERY RESULTS

PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 2008

DAY PICK 3:	9-7-5
NIGHT PICK 3:	8-6-6
DAY PICK BIG 4:	1-0-3-6
NIGHT PICK BIG 4:	3-0-0-8
TREASURE HUNT:	4-13-15-16-21
CASH 5:	9-23-25-35-38
MATCH 6:	19-26-31-37-42-43

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 2008

DAY PICK 3:	1-6-8
NIGHT PICK 3:	7-0-1
DAY PICK 4:	2-6-7-1
NIGHT PICK 4:	3-0-2-2
ROLLING CASH 5:	11-16-20-32-37

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

FRIDAY, JAN. 4, 2008

DAILY 3:	9-2-1
DAILY 4:	6-6-5-5
CASH 25:	3-11-12-16-17-22

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

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Cheers 'n Jeers

Here is a critical look at some of the events that helped shape life in the Mid-Mon Valley area during the past week:

To new Washington County District Attorney Steven Toprani, who offered a humble acceptance speech after being sworn into office Wednesday. "The voters have bestowed a great honor and responsibility upon me, to ensure justice, to fight crime and to serve the citizens of Washington County well," Toprani said. "I humbly and gratefully accept this duty." We find the 29-year-old Toprani's attitude toward public service refreshing, and we hope he can maintain it.

After an interminable buildup to the 2008 presidential election, the first ballots are finally being cast. Our only disappointment as the spotlight shifts from Iowa to New Hampshire is that nominees in both parties will probably be decided long before Pennsylvania's primary finally arrives April 22.

To the Pittsburgh Steelers for returning to the NFL playoffs. Even though the black-and-gold is considered an underdog for tonight's game with Jacksonville, we remember that the Steelers were never favored during their run to Super Bowl XL.

Do you agree? Do you disagree? The Valley Independent wants to hear from you. E-mail us at valleyletters@tribweb. com or write a letter to the editor. Include your phone number to allow for verification. Please limit letters to 350 words. We reserve the right to edit.

ANOTHER VIEW

The Philadelphia Inquirer on the "hormone-free" label:

Gov. Rendell and his agriculture secretary ought to side with consumers in a dispute over milk labeling.

Unless Agriculture Secretary Dennis C. Wolff wakes up and smells the cream in his coffee, Pennsylvania will ban dairies from labeling milk cartons as "hormone-free" on Feb. 1. That would be the wrong move for consumers, who have a right to know how their food is produced.

Wolff is kowtowing to dairy farmers who inject their herds with a hormone, which boosts milk production. The hormone-using farmers argue that a "hormone-free" label on competitors' milk wrongly implies the milk produced with hormones is unsafe.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the growth hormone for dairy herds 14 years ago.

There's no scientific evidence that milk from injected cows is unsafe. But some health experts say the matter isn't quite settled, either.

Research has focused on a protein found in milk called insulin-like growth factor 1. At high levels, IGF-1 has been associated with cancer in humans.

Milk from cows treated with synthetic hormones can have higher levels of IGF-1. But scientists disagree whether drinking this milk can cause higher IGF-1 levels in the bloodstream. Whether or not consumers know all the details of this debate, it is an open question that state officials have no right to ignore. There's no dispute that injecting cows with hormones can cause health problems for the cows themselves. That's one reason Europe and Canada have banned the practice.

After Wolff announced his milk-label decision in October, a debate ensued, prompting him to delay the Jan. 1 start date by one month. He should shelve this idea permanently. Pennsylvania would be the first state in the nation to deny consumers information about how their milk is produced. Wolff argues some "hormone-free" labels are inaccurate.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, *The Valley Independent,* Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Casino scandal starts with indicted priest

Brad **BUMSTED**

Two Republican prosecutors control the fate of some state elected officials as their investigations move into 2008.

We already know that Attorney General Tom Corbett has the power to shake the legislature to its very core with his ongoing probe of state bonuses for campaign work. So far, a former Democratic lawmaker, Frank LaGrotta, of Ellwood City, has been charged with felony conflict of interest for putting two relatives into alleged no-show jobs. A GOP staffer told me there is no question Corbett clearly has the potential to write the script for 2008.

The other lesser-known GOP prosecutor who could shake things up at the Capitol is Dauphin County District Attorney Ed Marsico. His casino-related probe could in the very least embarrass some top pols and give the Gaming Control Board a black eye.

Marsico's office last week charged a Scranton priest, the Rev. Joseph Sica, with perjury for allegedly lying about the extent of his relationship with the late organized crime boss Russell Bufalino, of Kingston.

Sica is an advisor to Louis DeNaples, also of Scranton, who built the $412 million Mount Airy Casino Resort in the Poconos. His casino — with 2,523 slot machines — opened in October. DeNaples, who pleaded no contest to fraud in 1978, has long been mentioned as someone with alleged ties to organized crime — which he strongly and repeatedly denies through spokesman Kevin Feeley.

Why was a priest indicted? What's that have to do with casinos? Not all of that is clear. But the Dauphin County DA is investigating whether DeNaples misled state gaming regulators about his alleged mob ties. DeNaples' lawyers tried unsuccessfully to quash the probe at the Supreme Court.

The grand jury presentment stated that Sica's "relationship to known criminals was material to whether DeNaples had a relationship with the same criminals."

First Assistant District Attorney Fran Chardo told a judge last week the investigation potentially could "involve the theft of billions of dollars" if a gaming license was fraudulently obtained.

Mount Airy isn't hurting. The gross terminal revenue from October through the end of December was almost $25 million. A total of $361 million was wagered at Mount Airy through the end of 2007.

DeNaples has not been accused of any wrongdoing. But if he is also charged at some point — which Chardo didn't rule out — a lot of questions will be raised about how Mount Airy's license was handled by gaming regulators.

The Gaming Control Board's process of investigating applicants would come under even more intense scrutiny, perhaps by the national media.

DeNaples' connections with pols would also be heavily vetted.

DeNaples, his companies, employees, and political action committee, donated more than $700,000 in campaign money to elected officials from 2000 to 2007. The recipients ranged from Democratic Gov. Rendell, Democrat and Republican campaign committees, an obscure PAC for former Senate President Pro Tempore Robert Jubelirer, R-Altoona, and former House Minority Leader Mike Veon, D-Beaver Falls. Jubelirer's committee controlled by former top staffer Mike Long had actually solicited $20,000 from DeNaples in 2005, according to Feeley.

Senate Democratic Leader Robert Mellow, a Lackawanna County Democrat, didn't get much campaign money from DeNaples though his party did. He is widely mentioned at the Capitol as one of the key supporters of DeNaples' bid to get a gaming license.

Understandable if you consider that DeNaples was probably one of the larger employers in Mellow's district even before Mount Airy opened.

There is a lot riding on Marsico's probe — a lot more than whether a priest lied to a grand jury.

Brad Bumsted is the Tribune-Review's state Capitol reporter.

EPA lets down governors

Cokie and Steve **ROBERTS**

When George W. Bush was governor of Texas, fellow Republicans in state houses across the country helped boost his presidential campaign. But many Republican governors are now boiling mad at the Bush administration's latest attempt to appease the auto industry and ignore global warming.

In a decision that defies good sense and good science, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Stephen L. Johnson, denied requests by California and 17 other states to impose tough new auto-emissions standards. His flimsy rationale: State efforts were unnecessary because Bush signed a bill upgrading national mileage goals for new cars and trucks.

In other words, Washington is saying to the states: Don't clean up your own air or improve the lives of your own citizens beyond the limits that we allow. "Laughable, patently absurd," insisted Gov. Jodi Rell of Connecticut. The EPA, added Gov. Jim Douglas of Vermont, "is out of touch with the reality of climate change."

But the most scathing words came from the most powerful Republican governor of them all, Arnold Schwarzenegger of California. He dubbed the EPA the "Environmental Destruction Agency" and thundered: "Anything less than aggressive action on the greatest environmental threat of all time is inexcusable."

He's right — there's no excuse for this decision. The administration argues against creating a confusing "patchwork" of rules, but the 18 states involved account for almost half the country and more are sure to follow — hardly a "patchwork" by any definition.

That's why the reaction has been overwhelmingly negative. Schwarzenegger and his fellow governors are determined to sue; Congress has already announced oversight hearings; the New York Times called the decision "an indefensible act of executive arrogance."

That arrogance starts with science. Bush has long questioned the theories behind global warming and derided the Kyoto treaty controlling greenhouse gases.

The evidence keeps mounting — all those unhappy polar bears are not in a Disney movie, they're real — so the president changed his language, paying lip service to the problem. But in his heart, Bush is clearly still a skeptic.

The president's decision does more than ignore science, however — it ignores the law. For years, the EPA argued that it lacked the power to regulate carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Massachusetts and 12 other states sued the agency in federal court, demanding that EPA control those pollutants, and last April, the Supreme Court ruled that the states were right.

"The harms associated with climate change are serious and well recognized," the court stated, and the damage suffered by the states because of EPA's foot-dragging was "actual" and "imminent."

Two lower courts have also sided firmly with the states, with one saying, "Congress has essentially designated California as a proving ground for innovation in emission-control regulations." In fact, EPA's own staff recommended to Johnson that he grant the waivers and told him bluntly: If you don't, you'll be sued and you'll lose.

In the past, Bush has made some terrible decisions: Restricting federal financing for stem-cell research is one, and blocking the expansion of health insurance for needy kids is another.

But at least the president had coherent reasons in those cases: Stem-cell research violated his pro-life principles; the insurance bill broke his no-new-taxes pledge.

In this case, the president is contradicting a bedrock conservative value: Allowing local governments, outside of Washington, to tailor solutions that fit the needs of their own people.

"It's always been the case that if the federal government has fallen short on anything, the states come in," Schwarzenegger told Time magazine. "The federal government has said many times that we are the laboratories. ... Let's have the states try something, if it's health care, education, whatever it is, because we all know all great things start at the grassroots level. Why are we all of a sudden fighting that?"

Some issues involve basic rights and require national solutions — banning racial discrimination, for example, or protecting food safety. But on many other issues, "great things" do start at the grassroots level. Wisconsin pioneered welfare reform and instigated changes at the national level. Massachusetts is now experimenting with new ways to expand health-insurance coverage.

Enchiladas made for winter

These hearty but healthy Mexican favorites are perfect for cold days.

By HOWIE RUMBERG
Associated Press Writer

If you're at all like me, you've just spent the holiday season indulging in a monthlong feast and are prepared to pay the price by starting the new year with a healthy diet.

But the last thing I want to eat on a blustery winter day is salad and light fare. I want warm and hearty.

One thing I've learned in my relatively recent forays into the kitchen is that with some tinkering you can turn a caloric catastrophe into a healthy option. To do this, I turned to Devin Alexander, who has made a career of taking artery-clogging, pound-packing recipes and turning them into yummy diet food.

She taught me how to make grilled chicken enchiladas from her Discovery Health channel show, "Healthy Decadence with Devin Alexander." Yes, those cheesy, saucy, sloppy Mexican restaurant favorites. Her version has is lighter by 20 grams of fat and 300 calories, according to her calculation.

"Honestly, I swear you'd never know the difference in recipes," Alexander said. "It tastes hearty but it's not heavy."

Rolled tight and packed with several finely chopped ingredients, enchiladas wouldn't usually be my first choice of dish to tackle. They look daunting.

But store-bought sauces and packaged chilies can make it easier, just be careful to choose brands that are low salt or salt free.

The secret to Alexander's fat-cutting recipe is using 75 percent reduced-fat cheese and grilling. Grilling the chicken helps keeps the fat content down because much of the fat drips off during cooking. And you don't even need a stove or a grill. You can use a non-stick frying pan coated with a little olive-oil spray.

Grilling usually scares me off because I'm afraid of failing to cook the chicken all the way through. But this recipe is idiot proof. Feel free to cut right into the breast to check because you're going to be chopping up the meat anyway.

Wrapping the tortilla is the trickiest part of making the enchiladas. I can think of several occasions, including a first date, where taco or burrito night ended in a shirt full of filling when the tortilla broke. At Alexander's urging I wrapped the tortillas in a damp, lint-free towel and microwave them to make them more pliable.

Serve enchiladas with a small salad — I'm not opposed to salad — or grill some vegetables and you'll have a meal that might just trick you into thinking the party is still on.

Grilled Chicken Enchiladas

Start to finish: 50 minutes (30 active)
Servings: 4

2 teaspoons salt-free Southwest or Mexican seasoning
1/8 teaspoon garlic powder
1/8 teaspoon salt
4 (4-ounce) boneless, skinless chicken breasts
1-1/4 cups canned medium traditional enchilada sauce (red)
1-1/4 cups canned medium green chile enchilada sauce
3-1/2 ounces (about 1-3/4 cups) finely shredded 75% light cheddar cheese, divided
1/3 cup fresh cilantro leaves, chopped
1/4 cup drained, sliced black olives
2 tablespoons canned, drained, chopped chilies
8 (6-inch) yellow corn tortillas

Preheat a grill to high heat. Preheat the oven to 425 F.

In a small bowl, mix the seasoning, garlic and salt. Rub the mixture evenly over chicken breasts to cover. Let stand 10 minutes, then place the breasts side by side on the grill or in your pan.

Turn the heat to medium and cook the breasts for 3 to 5 minutes per side or until no longer pink inside. Remove from the grill and let stand 5 minutes.

In a medium pan over medium heat, combine the enchilada sauces. Stir occasionally until simmering.

In a medium bowl, mix 1-1/4 cups of the cheese, the cilantro, olives and chilies. Set aside.

Coarsely chop one chicken breast. Repeat with remaining breasts and keep each resulting pile of chopped chicken separate from the others.

Spoon 1/2 cup of the sauce into a 13-by-9-by 2-inch baking dish, spreading it evenly to cover the bottom.

Associated Press

Devin Alexander's chicken Enchiladas are a hearty but healthy interpretation of the Mexican favorite.

Wrap the tortillas in a damp, lint-free dish towel and microwave until just warm and pliable, about 30 seconds. Dip one tortilla in the remaining sauce, then place 1/8 of the cheese mixture in a 2-inch wide strip down the center of the tortilla. Top with 1/2 of a chopped chicken breast.

Fold the sides of tortilla into the center so they overlap, creating a tube, and place the tube seam side down in the baking dish. Repeat with the remaining tortillas, chicken and cheese mixture, placing them side by side in the dish. Ladle the remaining sauce over the top then sprinkle the tops evenly with the reserved cheese.

Cover the dish with foil and bake for 10 minutes. Remove the foil and bake the enchiladas an additional 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted both on the top and on the insides.

Makes 4 two-enchilada servings.

Nutrition information per serving: 366 calories, 38 g protein, 32 g carbohydrates, 9 g fat (2 saturated), 75 mg cholesterol, 4 g fiber, 1151 mg sodium.

— Recipe from Discovery Health channel's "Healthy Decadence with Devin Alexander."

Associated Press

Turkish flatbreads, also called yufka, are thin like a tortilla and go well with hummus and baba ghanoush.

Flatbread known by many names

Pita bread has been joined by an army of options.

By TANYA BRICKING LEACH
For The Associated Press

In Mexico it's a tortilla. In Ethiopia it's injera. It's naan in India and matzoh in Israel.

By whatever name you call it, flatbread is everywhere. And in the United States, it is a quickly rising part of the nearly $14 billion bread industry that is crowding shelves from Wal-Mart to Whole Foods.

Not bad for a product that can count its age in centuries.

"It's a 2,000-year-old recipe," says Mike Stimola, president of Sandella's Flatbread, a cafe founded in 1994 in West Redding, Conn., that now has 125 locations. "It's the original bread."

It wasn't long ago that the only flatbread found in most grocery stores were pita pockets and tortillas. Today, dozens of varieties compete with flavorings such as sun-dried tomato, different grains and shapes, even low-carb options.

In fact, flatbread has become so popular that new product launches in the U.S. went from 12 in 2005 to 51 in 2006, says Joanna Peot, spokeswoman for Chicago-based market research firm Mintel International Group.

Cookbook author Naomi Duguid isn't surprised.

When she co-authored "Flatbreads & Flavors" in 1995, flatbread was still seen as something "a bit marginal" and ethnic, she says. But as chefs began to put flatbread in their bread baskets, it became far more common.

"Now you can go into any grocery store and there's going to be a whole group of breads you could call flatbread," she says. "We've moved from the conception that bread has to be a loaf."

Healthy eating trends explain most of the growth, says Peot. And unlikely as it may seem, fast food chains have helped, with wraps and other flatbread sandwiches appearing on numerous menus, including Quiznos and Arby's.

Versatility also helps, says Anissa Helou, a Lebanese baker who recently published a baking cookbook with many flatbread recipes. Americans are discovering that flatbreads work across cultures and eating styles.

"It's all about the usage," says Dan Malovany, editor of Snack Food & Wholesale Bakery magazine. Flatbread makers are finding success marketing a whole menu for "grab-and-go" hungry shoppers, he says.

Flatbread handles a turkey sandwich as easily as a smear of hummus, baba ghanoush or other Middle Eastern spreads. It also works for numerous Hispanic dishes, and even as a base for the all-American pizza.

"It's more than a backlash to Atkins," Jim White, a partner in the Concord, Ontario-based FGF Brands, which makes Fabulous Flats Naan, says of the low-carb diet that caused consumers to shun loaf bread.

When FGF began shipping to the U.S. in 2006, it sold naan in about 200 stores. Now it's available in more than 5,000 and is keeping up with orders for more than 1.5 million naan a week.

"Back in the '70s and '80s, the usual ethnic breads available to the masses were bagels or pita," White says. "Today, however, there is huge interest in Indian foods. Anything Indian or Asian is hot."

And at King Arthur Flour Co. in Norwich, Vt., introductory flatbread

(See BREAD, Page 8A)

SCHOOL MENUS

CALIFORNIA AREA
Breakfast

Daily – Milk.
Monday – Juice, cereal, Pop Tart.
Tuesday – Donut, juice, cereal.
Wednesday – Juice, cereal, muffin with peanut butter and jelly.
Thursday – Cereal, juice, super cinnamon bun.
Friday – Wheat toast, juice, funnel cake/powdered sugar.

Lunch

Monday – Chicken or spicy chicken sandwich, waffle fries, assorted fruit.
Tuesday – California hoagie/lettuce, corn, assorted fruit.
Wednesday – Hamburger/cheeseburger, tater tots, cole slaw, jell-o.
Thursday – Spaghetti/meat sauce, tossed green salad, roll, fruit Shape Up.
Friday – Pepperoni or garlic pizza, peas and carrots, assorted fruit.

CHARLEROI AREA
Breakfast

Daily – Cereal or yogurt with muffin, juice, milk.
Monday – Peanut butter and jelly bars.
Tuesday – Pancakes and sausage with applesauce.
Wednesday – Breakfast strudel.
Thursday – Country breakfast.
Friday – Hot Pockets.

Lunch

Daily – Milk.
Tuesday and Thursday – Salad bar (secondary); Wednesday (middle school).
Monday – Chicken strips with bread or Cougar beef hoagie, green beans, pears.
Tuesday – Cheeseburger on a bun or meatball hoagie with cheese, tater tots, mandarin oranges, assorted Jell-O cups.
Wednesday – Rigatoni with garlic bread or hot dog on a bun, peas, fresh fruit.
Thursday – French toast sticks with sausage patty or Italian hoagie, lettuce and tomato, applesauce, cookie; Secondary choice – Hoagie bar.
Friday – Pizza or tuna pita pocket, carrots, peaches.

GEIBEL CATHOLIC
Lunch

Daily – Milk.
Monday – Cheeseburger on bun, French fries, vegetable, dessert.
Tuesday – Chicken Alfredo, roll and butter, vegetable, dessert.
Wednesday – Meatball hoagie, onion rings, vegetable, dessert.
Thursday – Penne pasta, breadsticks, vegetable, dessert.
Friday – Chicken pizza, tossed salad, fruit, cookie.

MADONNA CATHOLIC REGIONAL SCHOOL
Breakfast

Daily – Cereal, toast, milk.
Monday – Breakfast Hot Pocket.
Tuesday – Pancakes.
Wednesday – Sausage and cheese bagel.
Thursday – French toast sticks.
Friday – Egg and cheese bagel.

Lunch

Daily – Chicken nuggets, chilled fruit, milk.
Monday – Pasta with meat sauce and breadstick, tossed salad.
Tuesday – Philly cheese sandwich, oven potatoes, vegetable.
Wednesday – Grilled cheese sandwich, tomato soup, oven potatoes, jell-o.
Thursday – Nachos with taco meat and cheese sauce, vegetable.
Friday – Pizza Pocket with sauce, tossed salad, vegetable.

MONESSEN
Breakfast

Daily – Cereal with graham crackers, fruit juice, milk.
Monday – Breakfast pizza Hot Pocket.
Tuesday – Cinnamon pretzel stick.
Wednesday – Flap stick with syrup.
Thursday – Cheesy eggs and muffin half.
Friday – Egg and cheese muffin.

Lunch

Daily – Fruit choice, milk.
Monday – Ham and cheese hoagie or chicken patty on a bun, French fries or green beans.
Tuesday – Hot dog on a bun or pizza burger, French fries or peas, peanut butter fudge.
Wednesday – Diced chicken and gravy over biscuit or meatball hoagie, mashed potatoes or carrots.
Thursday – BBQ chicken sandwich or cheeseburger on a bun, French fries or corn.
Friday – Breaded chicken with roll or chicken parm over pasta, tossed salad or broccoli.

YOUGH
Breakfast

Daily – Assorted cereal, toast slice, assorted juice, milk.
Monday – Cinnamon roll.
Tuesday – Jumbo waffle with syrup.
Wednesday – Blueberry muffin.
Thursday – Pancake with syrup and sausage links.
Friday – Scrambled eggs with buttered toast.

Lunch

Daily – Milk.
Monday – Chicken nuggets with multigrain wheat bread or gyro pita wrap, seasoned corn, apple.
Tuesday – Hamburger on a bun with lettuce and tomato or chicken fajita wrap, seasoned green beans, orange.
Wednesday – Turkey and cheese wrap or ravioli with spaghetti sauce and garlic bread, tossed salad with dressing banana; Elementary choice – Salad bar.
Thursday – Chicken strips, fries and multigrain wheat bread or chicken patty on a bun with lettuce and tomato, seasoned carrot coins, apple.
Friday – BBQ rib on a hoagie roll or pierogies with cheese stick, parsley potatoes, orange.

Super snacks for the game

Enjoy tempura onion rings while cheering for the Steelers.

COOKING WITH CYNTHIA

I know that we are all rooting for the Pittsburgh Steelers to win the playoffs for Super bowl; that is a given. If you aren't, shame on you.

But whether we do get there, a lot of you will still be planning playoff parties and Super Bowl parties, so I want to concentrate on those for a while.

One thing I learned about deep frying foods that you may not be aware of is no matter what type of oil you use, the temperature has the most to do with the amount of fat you ingest.

So to start with, you need a fryer with a thermostat, and make sure your oil temperature is up to where you want it before putting your fried foods into it and the food will absorb less of the oil.

Don't be afraid of deep-fried foods; just make sure you cook them properly. Also, use a lighter batter. The thicker the batter, the more fattening the food will be.

A tempura batter is the best for things like deep fried vegetables. So let's start with some delicious onion rings.

Use a turkey fryer to make a lot at once, or place each batch on a cooker sheet and keep warm in the oven until ready to serve. Did you know you could fry more in advance and freeze them? Then take them out and heat them in a 450-degree oven for 10 to 15 minutes.

Ingredients:

Enough of your favorite oil to fill your fryer to the marked level.

2 large onions, Peeled and cut into 1/4-inch rings (Vidalia are the best).

1 1/4 cups flour
1/4 cup cornstarch
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup cayenne pepper
1 1/4 cups ice water

NOTE: Adjust for serving size. Two onions will serve four people.

Directions:

Cut your onion rings and place them in a bowl of very cold water for 10 to 15 minutes. Drain well on a paper towel.

Heat your oil to about 360 degrees. In a bowl, whisk the flour, cornstarch, baking powder, cayenne and salt together. Add the ice water and stir until it forms a batter. (It should appear thin and may have bubbles). Place batter into a larger bowl filled with ice to keep batter cold.

Using tongs, drag the rings through the batter, letting excess drip off and add to the oil. If the oil is the correct temperature, they should come to a light gold-brown within 2 1/2 to 3 minutes. Transfer to paper towel and continue until all are fried.

Bread (FROM PAGE

classes offered to the public became so popular that the company went from holding two a year in 2002 to teaching them every month.

The flour company even built a wood-fired oven in 2005 for use in the courses. "The simplicity of it appeals to many people," says Susan Miller, director of the company's Baking Education Center. "The classes always fill up."

Alisa Rosenbaum is one of the many Americans fueling the flatbread industry growth.

Rosenbaum said she realized she was hooked on the stuff when she made pizza with it nearly every day for a week.

"It really gives you options," says Rosenbaum, a 27-year-old economics development consultant from Washington.

"It really is like a comfort food, but you can do it in a healthy way."

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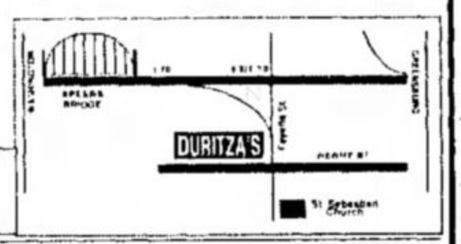

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Clemens to Congress?

Star pithers Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte have been asked by Congress to answer questions in the steroid probe. **4B**

Valley SPORTS

Amazing similarities

When you think about it, the bowl season is a lot like the Iowa caucuses with voters. **4B**

Outdoor hockey

In the wake of the pens-Sabres game outside, the NHL is considering playing more games out in the elements. **4B**

Sports Trivia

Who holds the Jacksonville Jaguars' record with 432 yards passing in a game? **2B**

Last night's scores

New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 0
Ottawa 5, Buffalo 3
Carolina 4, Atlanta 3
Chicago at Anaheim, late

Brian **HERMAN**

Football realignment scheduled

Cleaning up the notebook:

■Wednesday is the day the WPIAL football committee realigns the conferences for the next two years.

When the news gets out to the public is another story.

The next WPIAL Board of Control meeting isn't scheduled until Tuesday, Jan. 22 and that's usually the time realignments get the approval stamp.

I'd be surprised if the news doesn't get leaked out way before that.

Speaking of the football committee, I'm hoping they would consider moving the starting time of Friday's games up a half hour to 7 p.m.

With the contests being a lot longer due to more passing, the earlier start would benefit all the newspapers for their Saturday morning editions.

In case you're wondering, the WPIAL has nothing to do with setting kickoff times for schools during the regular season.

Schools or conferences can establish game times on their own.

■I can't believe it was 20 years ago today that former basketball great Pistol Pete Maravich died at the age of 40 while playing in a pickup game.

One of my most memorable experiences here was going against Maravich one-on-one at California University's Hamer Hall in the 1960's.

■It should be interesting to see where former California University gridder Jeff Casteel is coaching football next season.

Even though Casteel has been at West Virginia seven years and was on the sidelines for the Mountaineers' 48-28 Fiesta Bowl victory over Oklahoma the other night as the defensive coordinator, there's still talk that he may join Rich Rodriguez at Michigan.

Rodriguez has gone on record as saying he is loyal to his WVU staff and that "most" of that staff would be joining him in Ann Arbor.

■Monessen's Charel Allen will be on the national television spotlight today at 2 p.m. when CBS (Channel 2) carries Notre Dame's home game with No. 3 and defending national champion Tennessee.

The No. 14 Irish are 12-1 and riding a 10-game winning streak since losing at then-No. 3 Maryland, 75-59.

Tennessee is 11-1 with the setback in overtime, 73-69, at then No. 4 Stanford.

Allen is Notre Dame's leading scorer with a 13.5 average and is 15th on the school's all-time list with 1,229 points. She's 201 points away from moving into the top 10.

Tennessee leads the all-time series, 18-0, with a winning average of 21 points.

And thanks to Ben Kelley of Belle Vernon who says an unwelcome guest is one of the best things going!

Tyree time!

Monessen guard takes charge in 54-42 win over Washington

Win puts Hounds in first place in Class AA Sec. 5 with a perfect 6-0 record.

By BRIAN HERMAN
Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

MONESSEN - A minute and 41 seconds.

That's how long it took Tim Tyree to put Monessen all alone in first place in Class AA Section 5 Friday night.

With the Greyhounds clinging to a 38-35 lead early in the fourth quarter after Washington had trimmed an 11-point deficit down to two, Tyree took over to lead Monessen to a 54-42 victory.

The 5-10 senior guard scored six quick points within under two minutes to help Monessen snap the Prexies' 20-game section winning streak and own the top spot exclusively for the first time in two years in the section.

"The thoughts of losing to Washington twice last year stuck in my mind," said Tyree, who finished with a game-high 24 points, including 12 in the closing 5:40. "I was talking to Josh Arnold (last year's WPIAL scoring champion and former teammate) in practice yesterday and told him we weren't going to lose at home to them again."

And Tyree looked as if he were on a personal mission to back up his promise.

The Greyhounds (11-4, 6-0) appeared to be in control when they opened up a 36-25 lead with 2:58 to go in the third quarter.

Washington (11-4, 5-1), however, went on a 10-0 run before Monessen reserve Jamont Minnie scored his lone basket with 5:40 to go.

That set the stage for Tyree.

Fifteen seconds later, a Tyree tip-in gave Monessen a five-point lead and a steal 25 seconds later upped the Greyhounds' cushion to seven points.

He scored again 30 seconds later on a drive to make it 44-35 and did it again 46 seconds later to put the Prexies away for good.

"In the fourth quarter Washington had to come out and they were overplaying Tim," said Monessen coach Joe Salvino. "Once he got around his guy there was no one to cover him."

Delmar Prichett came off the bench to add 12 points, including three long-range treys with two in the second quarter when he sparked Monessen to a 27-20 halftime lead.

High for Washington were sophomore Troy Wilson and Tom Kelly with 15 and 13 points, repsectively.

Washington coach Ron Faust was impressed with the Greyhounds.

"They were very strong and physical," he said. ""I felt going in we'd have to score in the high 50s. We played hard but not well."

While Salvino was pleased with the play of his team in the showdown, he warned that there is still work to be done.

"We may be in the driver's seat but we don't want to get overconfident," added Salvino. "There's still a lot of basketball left."

LEFTOVERS: Monessen's next two games will be away at Brownsville Tuesday and Beth-Center Friday. The Greyhounds made eight of 14 free throws compared to two of four for the Prexies.

Jim Ference/The Valley Independent

Tim Tyree scores two of his 24 points in Monessen's 54-42 win over Washington.

Monessen's Jamont Minnie gets off a shot over the outstretched arm of Washington's Tom Kelly

Jim Ference/
The Valley Independent

Will Steelers get swept away by 'Steelers South?'

Jaguars already own one win, but Big Ben says it's different in the playoffs.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Jaguars have out-Steelered the Steelers at their own game.

Jacksonville runs to win rather than merely to set up the pass, controlling the line of scrimmage and playing almost error-free while allowing few big plays.

Jack Del Rio is the Jaguars' coach, but his game plans have Chuck Noll and Bill Cowher written all over them.

The Jaguars are 3-0 against the Steelers the last three seasons, winning twice in Pittsburgh. Their latest victory, a run-at-will 29-22 decision at snowy Heinz Field only three weeks ago, was driven by their 224 yards rushing, the most against Pittsburgh since 2000. Fred Taylor ran for 147 yards and Maurice Jones-Drew added 69 yards.

"They're the Pittsburgh Steelers South," Steelers tackle Willie Colon said.

Thus sets up the curious juxtaposition for tonight's AFC wild-card game, the first playoff showdown between the one-time AFC Central rivals.

For the Jaguars (11-5) to win, they probably must assume the Steelers' persona again, a southern team playing northern-style football in the January chill. For the Steelers (10-6) to win, they probably must play deep South football, putting the ball in quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's hands without worrying about down and distance or the two things that can go wrong on any pass.

Roethlisberger's playoff experience is the Steelers' one distinct advantage against a Jaguars team that has won seven in a row against the AFC North and six of eight overall. Roethlisberger is 5-1 in the playoffs, winning a Super Bowl two years ago, while Jacksonville's David Garrard has thrown all of eight playoff passes and has never started a postseason game.

"One mistake in the playoffs can kill you," Roethlisberger said, dropping a subtle hint to Garrard. "It might not kill you in the regular season, but it will in the postseason."

Otherwise, there's been a feeling of doom and gloom all week in Pittsburgh, and not only because of the dreary-as-usual early January weather.

Pittsburgh hasn't lost a playoff home game in the wild card or divisional round since 1992, yet this game has a different feel. The Steelers are underdogs, some not-so-confident fans are selling tickets at face value on eBay and the buzz that usually accompanies any home postseason game is lacking.

The Steelers even put a few tickets up for sale, something they almost never do publicly during the season, much less the playoffs.

There was some good news for them Friday — strong safety Troy Polamalu, who has missed four of six games with knee swelling, practiced for the first time all week. He's listed as questionable.

"I knew he feels well, but we'll see," coach Mike Tomlin said.

However, the fourth-seeded Steelers have rarely been so beaten up for a playoff game. They'll be without running back Willie Parker, who ran for 100 yards against Jacksonville earlier, and that means Najeh Davenport — who gained only 27 yards Sunday against Baltimore — will start. Also out are offensive tackles Marvel Smith and Max Starks, defensive end Aaron Smith and safety Ryan Clark.

They're down to their No. 3 left tackle, Trai Essex, a major worry considering they have been outrushed 494-327 while losing three of four. While taking the Super Bowl two seasons ago, the Steelers won their final four heading into the postseason.

Mike Tomlin

"That's a concern," Tomlin said of the confidence the Steelers may have lost during their recent slide. "A lot of things are of concern."

Still, Tomlin took umbrage when a Jacksonville reporter asked him if the Steelers' falloff was more the result of them not being the team they were earlier — when they were 7-2 — rather than their injuries.

"That's your opinion," Tomlin snapped.

Defensively, the Steelers gave up an average of

(See STEELERS, Page 2B)

SPORTS

Burgettstown blasts Charleroi

Cougar mentor Bill Wiltz was not pleased with team after 55-28 rout.

By BILL HUGHES
For The Valley Independent

FALLOWFIELD TOWNSHIP - Burgettstown placed three scorers in double figures Friday night as the Blue Devils defeated Charleroi, 55-28, in a Class AA Section 5 contest.

Sean Tunno (15), Brenden Bongiorni (14) and Derek Getz (11) combined for 40 points for the winners.

Charleroi coach Bill Wiltz was not happy with what he saw on the court.

"We lacked effort," he said. "I'm not sure why, but we have to figure it out. "We don't have any answers, but we know that we need to get better."

Eli Obade led Charleroi (6-8, 2-4) with 10 points and nine rebounds while Taylor Andrisko added nine points.

Burgettstown (9-3, 4-2) played solid defense all night, especially on the perimeter as the Devils held Andrisko, Charleroi's top three-point threat, without an attempt from downtown until there was 4:51 left in the third quarter.

The first quarter told the story of the game as the Blue Devils led 14-7. The score would have been 14-4 had Obade not drained a 35-foot buzzer beater.

The Cougars resume Tuesday at Washington.

New West Virginia head coach Bill Stewart gave Mike Tomlin his first coaching job when Stewart was coaching at VMI.

Steelers coach is big fan of WVU's new head football coach

Mike Tomlin worked with Bill Stewart at VMI.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Don't tell this to anyone at Pitt: One of new West Virginia coach Bill Stewart's biggest fans coaches right next door to the Panthers.

Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin is only hours away from coaching his first NFL playoff game, but he took a few minutes Thursday to praise Stewart — the man who gave him his first assistant's job, as the wide receivers coach at VMI in 1995.

Tomlin spent only one season under Stewart, who was so impressed with Tomlin as a player at William & Mary that he added him to his staff only a few months after Tomlin's college career ended.

Tomlin said he learned much in that single season from Stewart, a longtime assistant coach who was unexpectedly hired by West Virginia hours after leading the Mountaineers to a 48-28 rout of Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl on Wednesday night.

Stewart appeared to hug everyone in sight who was wearing Mountaineers gold and blue after the stunningly one-sided game, displaying the passion and love for the sport that, to Tomlin, is Stewart's biggest strength.

"He's a special man in my life for a lot of reasons. He gave me my first job. He showed me how to express the love and enthusiasm I have for this game as a coach," Tomlin said. "He cares about people. It oozes out of his everyday existence. He's an awesome coach, an awesome man, and I'm extremely happy for him."

Stewart, formerly the assistant head coach, was expected to coach West Virginia on an interim basis only for the bowl game and wasn't considered to be in the running for the full-time job.

Still, Tomlin isn't surprised that Stewart, who is much liked by the West Virginia players, was able to refocus the Mountaineers so quickly after a tumultuous and distraction-filled month.

The then-No. 2 Mountaineers were beaten by Pitt 13-9 on Dec. 1 in the greatest upset loss in school history, costing them a national title shot, then lost coach Rich Rodriguez to Michigan only days later. The school is suing Rodriguez, saying he owes $4 million as a contract buyout.

Despite all that unrest and unhappiness, West Virginia rallied for what arguably is the best victory in school history, and with a coach who was running his first game at a BCS school.

Tomlin couldn't have been happier that a self-described football lifer like Stewart, a loyal assistant for most of his 33 years in coaching, finally gets to be a head coach on one of college football's biggest stages.

"It was football justice, if you will," Tomlin said. "If you know Bill Stewart, you love Bill Stewart and last night was football justice."

Tomlin called West Virginia officials on Wednesday — apparently, president Mike Garrison among them — to express his support for Stewart.

"Yeah, I'd like to leave that private," Tomlin said. "What I don't want to leave private is my support and love I have for coach Stewart."

Hours before, Tomlin reacted to the news of Stewart's hiring by saying, "Bill Stewart! That's the best news of the day!"

When Tomlin was hired by the Steelers last January, Stewart heaped praise on his former assistant, saying, "He was born to coach."

Tomlin apparently feels the same way about his former boss, a native of New Martinsville, W.Va., whose first job was as a newspaper delivery boy.

"They picked the right man for the job," Tomlin said.

Ringgold snaps 6-game drought

Rams drop McGuffey; California beats Maple-town, 66-54.

Basketball roundup

Ringgold's losing streak is over.

It ended at six Friday when the Rams posted a 56-47 victory at McGuffey in Class AAA Section 4.

Ringgold (5-10, 2-1) had busy night at the foul line, hitting 22 of 36 including 15 of 24 in the final eight minutes.

Shane Mountain, who topped the Rams with 13 point, didn't miss eight free throws withsix in the final period.

R.J. Brownlee and Dave Bassi both added 12 points with Simon Bekavac scoring 11.

The Rams led 29-18 at halftime and 36-33 going into the fourth quarter.

Luke Baker and Matt Czulewicz both had 13 points for McGuffey (3-8, 0-3).

Ringgold is home with Baldwin today at 4:30 p.m.

California stayed in first place in Class A Section 2 with a 66-54 win at Mapletown.

Travis VanOlst scored half of his 20 points in the third quarter when the Trojans (8-4, 3-0) outscored the Maples, 22-15, to break open a 27-24 game.

Donte Valentino followed with 17 points while Ben Carson had 12 points and Jordan Michaux 11.

Ryan Wilson, a 6-7 senior, had 17 points for the Maples (6-5, 0-2).

California resumes Tuesday at Jefferson-Morgan.

There' a four-way tie in Class AAA Section 5 after West Mifflin edged Yough, 63-60, in overtime.

The Titans blanked the Cougars, 3-0, in the extra period after Yough outscored West Mifflin, 14-9, in the fourth quarter to knot the score at 60-60.

Rasheed Washington (22) and Chris Hester (17) were high for West Mifflin (6-6, 2-1) while Ben Hoffer poured in 31 points for Yough (6-7, 2-1).

Yough goes to Steel Valley Tuesday.

Steel Valley (10-2, 2-1) topped Elizabeth Forward, 56-43, to climb into a share of first place with Mike Carr (17) and Jaquan McNeil (14) combining for 31 points.

Xavier Means and Nick Giansante topped the Warriors (2-11, 0-3) with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Elizabeth Forward, which has lost 10 straight, visits co-leading Belle Vernon Area Tuesday.

In Class A Section 3, Frazier was an 88-53 loser at Clairton.

Matt Keebler and Eric Rock both had 13 points for the Commodores (1-10, 0-4), who host Bentworth Tuesday.

Demetrius Rochelle had 24 points for Clairton.

49ers' Willis named top defensive rookie

Linebacker wins honor despite playing for a mediocre team.

NEW YORK (AP) — One NFL scout called linebacker Patrick Willis "a beast." An NFL coach said Willis is "a rolling ball of butcher knives."

And that was before Willis won The Associated Press 2007 NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year award.

Willis' dominant performance could have been overlooked because his San Francisco 49ers went 5-11 in a mediocre division. Instead, his league-leading 174 tackles and presence all over the field made him a runaway winner and the 'fifth straight linebacker to take the honor.

"It's a great honor," said Willis, who woke up Friday to "a bunch of text messages and 13 calls" on his cell phone telling him he won. "I can't give enough credit to my teammates, especially for the front seven — the defensive line was unbelievable — and for my linebacker corps helping me find my way, and for my coaches believing in me."

Willis earned 48 votes Friday from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the NFL. Only Carolina linebacker Jon Beason, with two, also received votes.

"It's confirmation of what you've been doing as an individual," Willis said. "From an individual perspective, it would be good for people that doubted, or didn't know if you could be a No. 1 draft pick, or if you could come into the league and do well because of your size or where you might have played ball at ... and show them that if you put your mind to it, you're capable of anything."

Willis certainly looked capable of just about anything as he did just about everything in 2007. The 11th overall draft pick from Mississippi was a dynamic presence from the first practice with the 49ers, and by season's end, opponents were scheming to avoid him.

It didn't work very often, witness his total tackles and four sacks and his ability to disrupt the opposition. He made 11 tackles in the season opener and had at least 10 in 10 games. His high was 20 against Tampa Bay, when Willis also had two sacks.

"I never say it was after this (specific) game I knew I would have a good year," Willis said. "Each week I continued to work and try to be productive. Each week was a working opportunity for me.

"I think that I was more comfortable as the season went on. I think I started understanding things a little better and seeing things better."

And, as Vikings coach Brad Childress noted, cutting through blockers like butcher knives.

"He's a freak," said Vikings running back Adrian Peterson, who won the Offensive Rookie award earlier this week. "Working out with him, I saw the talent he has.

"One thing I realized while working out with Patrick is that he is very competitive. He's strong as an ox."

Willis is the third 49ers player to win the award, joining tackle Dana Stubblefield (1993) and cornerback Bruce Taylor (1970).

SPORTS DIGEST

Monessen cagers down Wshington

Monessen Junior High's basketball team upped its record to 7-1 with a 63-47 win over Washington.

Cam Johnson (18) and Jeff Francia (16) coimbined for 34 points for the Little Greyhounds, who resume Monday at home with Greensburg Central Catholic.

BVA cagers roll over Yough, 58-12

Jake Burritt (14), Conor Shutterly (10) and Franklin Hewitt (10) combined for 34 points as Belle Vernon Area Middle School's basketball team upped its record to 8-2 with a 58-12 romp over Yough.

BVA visits Brownsville Monday.

Ringgold drops Connellsville West

Ringgold's ninth grade basketball team upped its record to 5-1 with a 34-29 win oier Connellsville West bhind Josh Burnisky's 10 points.

The Little Rams are home with Albert Gallatin Tuesday.

Trivia answer

Mark Brunell.

Hingis gets 2-year ban for cocaine

LONDON (AP) -- Martina Hingis was banned for two years Friday for testing positive for cocaine at Wimbledon last year.

The International Tennis Federation said an independent anti-doping tribunal found that Hingis, who announced her retirement Nov. 1 on the day she revealed the positive test, had committed an offense.

Hingis

The 27-year-old Hingis denied using cocaine, but the tribunal rejected suggestions there were any doubts over her sample.

Although the five-time Grand Slam winner is now retired, her suspension is backdated to Oct. 1.

The ITF also disqualified Hingis' results from last year's Wimbledon and any subsequent tournaments she played in. She also forfeits any ranking points gained and $129,481 in prize money.

Hingis lost 6-4, 6-2 to Laura Granville in the third round at Wimbledon last year.

Charleroi Jrs. defeat Frazier

Charleroi Junior High's basketball team visits Geibel Tueday after beating Frazier, 41-35.

Vinnie Scirotto, Kyle Shannon and Stefan Stile each had seven poiints for the Little Cougars (6-1).

Ball leaves Pitt for Washington State

PULLMAN, Wash. (AP) — Former Washington State secondary coach Chris Ball will return to the Cougars sideline next season, head coach Paul Wulff announced Friday.

This marks the third stint on the Cougars coaching staff for Ball, who served as a graduate assistant coach under Mike Price in 1989, then spent three seasons as WSU's secondary coach from 2000-02.

Ball, 44, returns to Pullman after spending the 2007 season as secondary coach at the University of Pittsburgh. Prior to that, Ball served four seasons coaching the secondary at Alabama.

The St. Louis, Mo., native played at Missouri Western State College and later served there as a graduate assistant and defensive coordinator.

Mon Valley Thunder home with Wooster

The Mon Valley Thunder (6-11-3) plays its fourth straight Class A Mid-Atlantic League game with second place Wooster (9-10-2) today at 4:30 p.m. at the Ice Garden.

The Warriors are coming off an 8-7 shootout loss to Valley Forge Friday.

Wooster's Don Patrick and Mon Valley's Joey Olson are third and fourth in the league scoring race with 50 and 46 points, respectively.

Weir leads at Mercedes

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP) — Kapalua might consider changing its logo to a Maple Leaf this week.

Mike Weir of Canada, who only 10 weeks ago qualified for the winners-only Mercedes-Benz Championship with his first victory in more than three years, made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole for a 6-under 67 in much more agreeable conditions Friday for a one-shot lead over Stephen Ames and Jonathan Byrd.

Ames, the only player in the field who actually lives in Canada, fixed a flaw in his putting stroke and also shot 67, making birdie on three of his last five holes despite missing a 6-footer along the way.

Weir, raised in Bright's Grove, Ontario, now lives in Utah and played only one full round of golf last month when he went to San Diego to check on equipment. Ames was born in Trinidad & Tobago and moved to Calgary in 1991, becoming a naturalized citizen in 2003. He hasn't played since winning the Skins Game, and during his 10-day vacation on Maui, only played 18 holes over two days with his sons.

And here they are on an island in the Pacific, their names atop the leaderboard in the first tournament of the year.

Canadian tourists on the west coast of Maui won't be hard to find on Saturday.

About 100 of them were standing above the first fairway in the opening round when Ames and Weir playing in consecutive groups, and they seemed to split up. They can stay in one place for the third round. Weir, at 8-under 138, and Ames will be in the final group.

Byrd made birdie on his last two holes for a 69.

Steelers (FROM PAGE ONE)

28.5 points and 373 yards in those last four games. That's not a good sign considering Taylor has five consecutive 100-yard games in a Jacksonville offense that has scored 24 or more points in each of its last 10 games.

"But I don't see Fred Taylor doing that to our defense twice," said Hines Ward, who, with fellow receiver Santonio Holmes, may see plenty of passes thrown his way by Roethlisberger.

No doubt the Jaguars took note of Ward's comment.

"I think Pittsburgh is always mad at us and we are always mad at them," Garrard said. "It's just that kind of game."

There's also this incentive for fifth-seeded Jacksonville: No opposing team in the Steelers' 75-season history has won twice in Pittsburgh in the same season, much less in successive games.

"I'm not worried about history," Jaguars defensive end Paul Spicer said. "I'm worried about right now."

The winner plays next Saturday at top-seeded New England (16-0), unless the Titans (10-6) win Sunday at San Diego (11-5). If that happens, Tennessee plays at New England and the Jaguars-Steelers winner travels to second-seeded Indianapolis (13-3) on Jan. 13.

SPORTS

High school boys' standings

Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	L	Overall W	L
Chartiers Valley	3	0	12	1
Keystone Oaks	3	0	8	6
Ringgold	2	1	5	10
South Park	1	2	4	9
McGuffey	0	3	3	8
Trinity	0	3	1	10

Friday

Ringgold 56, McGuffey 47
Keystone Oaks 71, South Park 55
Chartiers Valley 80, Trinity 33

Today

Baldwin at Ringgold (4:30 p.m.)
Bethel Park at Chartiers Valley (2:30 p.m.)

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
Steel Valley	2	1	10	2
Belle Vernon Area	2	1	9	4
West Mifflin	2	1	6	6
Yough	2	1	6	7
Thomas Jefferson	1	2	2	8
Elizabeth Forward	0	3	2	11

Friday

Steel Valley 56, Elizabeth Forward 43
West Mifflin 63, Yough 60

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
Monessen	6	0	11	4
Washington	5	1	11	4
Burgettstown	4	2	9	3
Brownsville	4	2	8	5
C-Houston	3	3	8	6
Charleroi	2	4	6	8
Beth-Center	0	6	3	10
Waynesburg	0	6	2	10

Friday

Monessen 54, Washington 42
Burgettstown 55, Charleroi 28
Brownsville 58, Beth-Center 42
Chartiers-Houston 63, Waynesburg 47

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	L	Overall W	L
California	3	0	8	4
Geibel	2	0	3	7
Carmichaels	2	1	7	3
Jeff-Morgan	1	2	4	9
Mapletown	0	2	6	5
West Greene	0	3	1	9

Friday

California 66, Mapletown 54
Geibel 80, West Greene 38
Carmichaels 45, Jeff-Morgan 32

Today

Jeff-Morgan at Burgettstown

	Sec. 3 W	L	Overall W	L
Serra	3	0	9	1
Bentworth	4	1	9	3
Sacred Heart	3	2	4	10
Clairton	3	2	5	6
Cornell	2	3	7	6
Avella	1	4	4	8
Frazier	0	4	1	10

Friday

Bentworth 64, Avella 55
Clairton 88, Frazier 53
Serra 59, Cornell 49
Carrick 58, Sacred Heart 52

Today

Avella at Serra

High school girls' standings

Class AAA

	Sec. 4 W	L	Overall W	L
Ringgold	3	0	9	2
West Allegheny	2	1	7	6
Chartiers Valley	2	1	7	6
McGuffey	1	2	6	6
Keystone Oaks	1	2	4	7
Waynesburg	0	3	3	9

Friday

Chartiers Valley 63 Waynesburg 19

Today

Belle Vernon Area at Ringgold (1:30 p.m.)

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
West Mifflin	3	0	10	3
Thomas Jefferson	3	0	6	8
Elizabeth Forward	2	1	10	2
Steel Valley	1	2	7	4
Yough	0	3	6	8
Belle Vernon Area	0	3	3	8

Friday

South Fayette 42, Thomas Jefferson 26

Today

Canon-McMillan at Elizabeth Forward (1 p.m.)
Bethel Park at West Mifflin (1 p.m.)

Class AA

	Sec. 5 W	L	Overall W	L
Washington	5	0	12	0
Brownsville	4	2	11	3
Beth-Center	3	2	8	4
Charleroi	3	2	6	7
Bentworth	2	3	7	6
C-Houston	1	4	4	9
Burgettstown	0	5	2	13

Class A

	Sec. 2 W	L	Overall W	L
Geibel	3	0	7	5
Carmichaels	3	0	5	7
Mapletown	1	2	7	4
California	1	2	4	8
West Greene	1	2	1	11
Jeff-Morgan	0	3	1	11

Friday

California 52, Frazier 37

Today

Frazier at Trinity Christian

	Sec. 3 W	L	Overall W	L
Monessen	5	0	14	0
Clairton	3	1	5	4
Serra	2	1	6	3
Avella	1	2	5	6
Frazier	0	3	0	12
Trinity Christian	0	4	3	9

Mid-Atlantic Hockey League

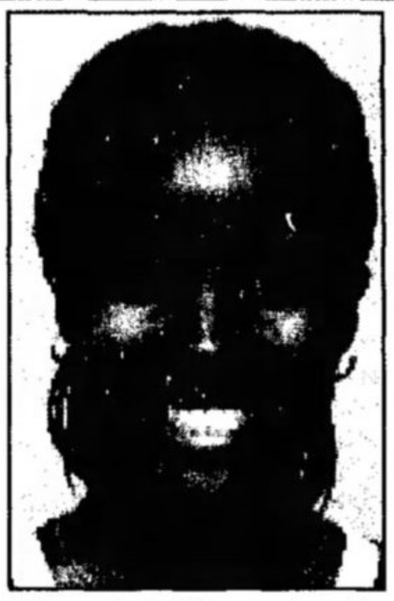
	W	L	T	Pts
Indiana	20	1	0	40
Jamestown	9	12	0	18
Wooster	9	10	2	20
Valley Forge	7	11	1	15
Mon Valley	6	11	3	15

Friday

Indiana 6, Jamestown 1
Valley Forge 8, Wooster 7

Today

Wooster at Mon Valley (4:30 p.m.)
Valley Forge at Jamestown



Charel Allen leads Notre Dame's women's basketball team against Tennessee 2 p.m. today on CBS.

Sports dial

Today
Television

Noon - Channel 2 - Penn State at Michigan State, women's college basketball.

Noon - ESPN - Kansas at Boston College, college basketball.

1 p.m. - Channel 11 - All-American Bowl, high school football.

2 p.m. - Channel 2 - Tennessee at Notre Dame, women's college basketball.

2 p.m. - Channel 4 - All-America Game, high school football.

2 p.m. - ESPN - Michigan at Purdue,college basketball.

2 p.m. - Fox Sports - Oregon at Arizona, college basketball.

4 p.m. - Channel 2 - Louiville at Kentucky, college basketball.

4 p.m. - Fox Sports - Oregon State at Arizona State, college basketball.

4:30 p.m. - Channel 11 - Washington at Seattle, pro football.

6 p.m. - Fox Sports - UCLA at California, college basketball.

6 p.m. - Golf Channel - Mercedes-Benz Championship, golf.

8 p.m. - Chanmnel 11 - Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, pro football.

8:30 p.m. - WGN - Sacramento a Chicago, pro basketball.

9 p.m. - ESPN - Connecticut at Notre Dame, college basketball.

Sunday
Television

1p.m. - Channel 53 - New York Giant at Tampa Bay, pro football.

1 p.m. - ESPN - Construction-Jobs.com Championship, bowling.

1:30 p.m. - Channel 2 - Connecticut at Purdue, women's college basketball.

3:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Califoirnia at UCLA, woen's college basketball.

4 p.m. - ERSPN2 - Tulane at Houston, women's college basketball.

4:30 p.m. - Channel 2 - Tennessee at San Diego, pro football.

5:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Cornell at Duke, college basketball.

6 p.m. - Golf Channel - Mercedes-Benz Championship, golf.

7:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - North Carolina at Clemson, college basketball.

8 p.m. - ESPN - Bowling Green vs Tulsa, college football.

NHL standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	23	14	3	49	98	93
Pittsburgh	22	16	2	46	117	114
N.Y. Rangers	20	17	4	44	100	101
N.Y. Islanders	20	16	3	43	97	108
Philadelphia	19	15	4	42	115	108

Northeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	26	10	4	56	144	113
Montreal	20	13	7	47	122	112
Boston	20	16	4	44	104	105
Buffalo	19	17	3	41	118	112
Toronto	16	17	8	40	118	133

Southeast Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	21	18	4	46	134	140
Atlanta	20	21	1	41	119	140
Florida	19	19	3	41	104	112
Washington	16	20	5	37	112	127
Tampa Bay	15	22	4	34	118	140

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Central Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	30	8	3	63	145	89
Columbus	19	16	6	44	103	99
St. Louis	19	14	5	43	96	99
Chicago	19	17	3	41	116	117
Nashville	19	18	2	40	108	116

Northwest Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Vancouver	23	14	4	50	108	93
Calgary	21	14	7	49	123	122
Minnesota	23	15	2	48	109	110
Colorado	21	16	3	45	117	117
Edmonton	17	21	4	38	108	129

Pacific Division

	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	23	15	4	50	126	110
San Jose	22	12	6	50	102	92
Anaheim	20	17	5	45	103	113
Phoenix	20	18	1	41	103	105
Los Angeles	15	25	2	32	119	137

Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss or shootout loss.

Friday's Games

New Jersey 3, Philadelphia 0
Ottawa 5, Buffalo 3
Carolina 4, Atlanta 3
Chicago at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

Today's Games

Washington at Montreal, 12:30 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 2 p.m.
Florida at Pittsburgh, 3 p.m.
New Jersey at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Minnesota at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Carolina at St. Louis, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Colorado, 9 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton, 10 p.m.
Columbus at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Calgary at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Buffalo at Atlanta, 2 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 7 p.m.

Bowl glance

Today
International Bowl
At Toronto
Payout: $750,000

Rutgers (7-4) vs. Ball State (7-5), Noon (ESPN2)

Sunday, Jan. 6
GMAC Bowl
Mobile, Ala.
Payout: $750,000

Tulsa (9-4) vs. Bowling Green (8-4), 8 p.m. (ESPN)

Monday, Jan. 7
BCS National Championship
At New Orleans
Payout: $17 million

Ohio State (11-1) vs. LSU (11-2), 8 p.m. (FOX)

High school basketball lineups

BOYS

Monessen - 54

Stepoli, 1-3-6; Wall, 4-0-8; Parker, 1-0-2; Brandemarte, 0-0-0; Tyree, 9-4-24; Prichett, 4-1-12; Minnie, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 20, F - 8 (14),T - 54.

Washington - 42

Wise, 0-1-1; Wilson, 6-1-5; Kelly, 6-0-13; Bryant, 2-0-5; Ellis, 2-0-4; Floyd, 1-0-2; Anderson, 1-0-2. Totals: FG 18, F - 2 (4), t - 42.

Score by quarters:

Washington	9	11	11	11	- 42
Monessen	12	15	9	18	- 54

Three-pointers: Monessen - Pritchett 3, Tyree 2, Stepoli. Washington - Wilson 2, Kelly, Bryant.

Ringgold - 56

Brownlee, 4-3-12; Bassi, 4-4-12; Mountain, 2-8-13: Bekavac, 2-6-11; Patch, 1-0-2; Smith, 1-1-3; Madar, 1-0-3; Yost, 0-0-0; Resanavich, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 15, F - 22 (36), T - 56.

McGuffey - 47

Baker, 3-6-13; Braun, 3-0-7; Czulewicz, 5-3-13; Wise, 1-0-2; McCollum, 1-2-4; McAnnany, 1-3-5; Reihner, 1-0-3; Schilinski, 0-0-0. Totals; FG - 15, f - 14 (21), T - 47.

Score by quarters:

Ringgold	16	13	7	20	- 56
McGuffey	12	6	15	14	- 47

Three-pointers: Ringgold - Brownlee, Mountain, Bekavac. Madar. McGuffey - Baker, Braun, Reihner.*

California - 66

Carson, 3-3-12; Michaux, 5-1-11; Valentino, 7-3-17; Roach, 2-2-6; VanOlst, 8-4-20; Tyler, 0-0-0; Shen, 0-0-0; Wright, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 25, F-13 (21), T - 66.

Mapletown- 54

Kovatch, 5-2-16; Wilson, 8-1-17; Dicvkerson, 2-3-7; Shiflett, 5-0-11; Porterfield, 0-1-1; Jeffrey, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 21, F - 7 (11), T - 54.

Score by quarters:

California	12	15	22	17	- 66
Mapletown	13	11	15	15	- 54

Three-pointers: California - Carson 3. Mapletown - Kovach 4, Shiflett.

Burgettstown - 55

Bongiorni, 6-2-14: Pavan, 2-0-6; Tunno. 5-1-15; Tasz, 1-2-4; Getz, 4-3-11; Restanio, 1-0-3; Bielecki, 1-0-2. Totals: FG - 20, F - 8 (12) , T - 55.

Charleroi - 28

Andrisko, 4-0-9; Pappasergi, 0-1-1; Strelick, 0-0-0; Obade, 4-1-10; DiPiazza, 2-0-4; Hooks, 0-0-0; Hank, 1-0-2; Bell, 1-0-2; Anderson, 0-0-0; Price, 0-0-0; Tanner, 0-0-0. Totals: FG - 12, F - 2 (4), T - 28.

Score by quarters:

Burgettstown	14	13	17	11	- 55
Charleroi	7	6	6	9	- 28

Three-pointers: Charleroi - Andrisko, Obade. Burgettstown - Tunno 4, Pavan 2.

High school basketball scores

BOYS

Aliquippa 78, South Side Beaver 29
Ambridge 49, West Allegheny 48
Baldwin 68, New Castle 67
Beaver Falls 73, Quaker Valley 62
Bentworth 64, Avella 55
Blackhawk 62, Beaver 42
Brashear 77, Langley 56
Brentwood 72, Fort Cherry 63
Burgettstown 55, Charleroi 28
Burrell 58, Freeport 42
California 66, Mapletown 54
Carmichaels 45, Jefferson-Morgan 32
Carrick 58, Sacred Heart 52
Center 65, Freedom 42
Chartiers Valley 80, Trinity 33
Chartiers-Houston 63, Waynesburg 47
Chestnut Ridge 45, Everett 40
Clairton 88, Frazier 53
East Allegheny 58, West Shamokin 32
Fox Chapel 51, Penn Hills 47
Franklin Regional 63, Penn-Trafford 52
Geibel 80, West Greene 38
Greensburg Central 76, Ford City 41
Greensburg Salem 73, Southmoreland 36
Hempfield 69, Connellsville 60
Highlands 67, Hampton 65
Hopewell 60, Montour 38
Indiana 77, Mars 59
Jeannette 74, Apollo-Ridge 27
Keystone Oaks 71, South Park 55
Kittanning 51, Ellwood City 50
Latrobe 74, Kiski Area 57
Laurel Highlands 47, Mt. Pleasant 40
McKeesport 66, Central Catholic 58
Mohawk 59, Summit Academy 57
Monaca 62, Western Beaver 50
Monessen 54, Washington, Pa. 42
Moon 51, Peters Township 31
Mt. Lebanon 62, Bethel Park 56
North Allegheny 65, Butler 64
North Catholic 62, Deer Lakes 40
Norwin 65, Albert Gallatin 54
Oliver 49, Allderdice 47
Peabody 67, Westinghouse 49
Pine-Richland 43, North Hills 40
Ringgold 56, McGuffey 47
Riverside 64, New Brighton 58
Riverview 44, Northgate 43
Rochester 39, Laurel 35
Schenley 83, Perry 75
Seneca Valley 50, Shaler 41
Serra Catholic 59, Cornell 49
Seton-LaSalle 58, Avonworth 38
Shady Side Academy 51, Sewickley Academy 44
Shenango 54, Neshannock 51
South Fayette 66, Canevin 62
Springdale 54, South Allegheny 41
St. Joseph 79, Elderton 33
Steel Valley 56, Elizabeth Forward 43
Sto-Rox 50, Carlynton 45
Uniontown 84, Derry Area 52
Upper St. Clair 62, Canon-McMillan 46
Valley 63, Knoch 60
Vincentian Academy 60, Quigley 25
West Mifflin 63, Yough 60
Wilkinsburg 62, Trinity Christian 32
Woodland Hills 61, Plum 58

GIRLS

Allderdice 69, Oliver 24
Blackhawk 52, Riverside 48
Brashear 44, Langley 33
Brentwood 39, Ellis School 24
Butler 59, North Allegheny 57
California 52, Frazier 37
Carlynton 51, Carrick 15
Chartiers Valley 63, Waynesburg 19
Gateway 41, Penn-Trafford 30
Latrobe 44, Kiski Area 38
Pine-Richland 50, North Hills 35
Richland 74, Somerset 58
Schenley 54, Perry 35
Seneca Valley 47, Shaler 46
South Fayette 42, Thomas Jefferson 26
Trinity 58, Derry Area 56
Westinghouse 63, Peabody 12
Woodland Hills 48, Plum 29

College basketball

MEN
EAST

Brown 68, American U. 55
Fairfield 69, Loyola, Md. 67
Marist 81, Rider 80
St. Peter's 65, Canisius 54

SOUTH

Alabama 93, Chicago St. 79
Savannah St. 61, Southern Miss. 56

MIDWEST

Nebraska 86, Md.-Eastern Shore 50

WOMEN
EAST

Georgetown 65, Brown 46
La Salle 70, Lafayette 54
St. Bonaventure 69, Cornell 61

SOUTH

Savannah St. 74, Florida A&M 66
Toledo 71, Memphis 68, OT

MIDWEST

Creighton 83, Wichita St. 47
Drake 72, Missouri St. 42
Kansas 62, Xavier 60

SOUTHWEST

Baylor 84, Texas St. 57
TCU 97, Texas-Arlington 42
Texas 91, Texas-Pan American 43
Tulane 61, Rice 38
UTEP 79, Houston 61

FAR WEST

Colorado 65, Pepperdine 53
Montana 78, Montana St. 65

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	28	3	.903	—
Toronto	17	16	.515	12
New Jersey	16	16	.500	12 1/2
Philadelphia	14	18	.438	14 1/2
New York	8	23	.258	20

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	13	.629	—
Washington	16	15	.516	4
Atlanta	15	15	.500	4 1/2
Charlotte	11	20	.355	9
Miami	8	24	.250	12 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	26	7	.788	—
Cleveland	16	17	.485	10
Indiana	16	18	.471	10 1/2
Chicago	12	19	.387	13
Milwaukee	12	20	.375	13 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	22	9	.710	—
Dallas	21	11	.656	1 1/2
New Orleans	21	11	.656	1 1/2
Houston	16	17	.485	7
Memphis	9	23	.281	13 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	20	12	.625	—
Portland	20	13	.606	1/2
Utah	18	16	.529	3
Seattle	9	23	.281	11
Minnesota	4	28	.125	16

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	23	9	.719	—
L.A. Lakers	19	11	.633	3
Golden State	19	14	.576	4 1/2
Sacramento	12	19	.387	10 1/2
L.A. Clippers	10	20	.333	12

Friday's Games

Houston 96, Orlando 94
Indiana 113, Atlanta 91
Detroit 101, Toronto 85
Boston 100, Memphis 96
Cleveland 97, Sacramento 93
New Jersey 102, Charlotte 96
Denver 118, Minnesota 107
San Antonio 97, New York 93
Washington 101, Milwaukee 77
Miami at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.
Philadelphia at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.

Today's Games

New Jersey at Atlanta, 7 p.m.
Boston at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
New York at Houston, 8:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10 p.m.

Sunday's Games

Cleveland at Toronto, 1 p.m.
Seattle at Washington, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.
San Antonio at L.A. Clippers, 3:30 p.m.
Miami at Memphis, 4 p.m.
Milwaukee at Charlotte, 6 p.m.
Philadelphia at Denver, 8 p.m.
Indiana at L.A. Lakers, 9:30 p.m.

Sports moves

BASEBALL
American League

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with LHP Jon Switzer and LHP Michael Tejera on minor league contracts and assigned them to Pawtucket (IL). Sold the contract of RHP Scott Atchison to Hanshin (Japan).

KANSAS CITY ROYALS—Agreed to terms with RHP Hideo Nomo on a minor league contract.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Andy Cannizaro and OF John Rodriguez on minor league contracts.

National League

CINCINNATI REDS—Claimed OF Jeff Fiorentino off waivers from Baltimore. Agreed to terms with RHP Jim Brower, INF Jolbert Cabrera, INF Andy Green, LHP Adam Pettyjohn and INF Andy Phillips on minor league contracts.

FLORIDA MARLINS—Agreed to terms with INF Chris Barnwell, INF Tagg Bozied, INF Jorge Cantu, INF Rex Rundgren, INF Jason Wood, OF John Gall, OF Alexis Gomez, OF Jorge Piedra, C Paul Hoover; RHP Tim Corcoran, RHP Marcus Gwyn, RHP Bobby Keppel, RHP Joe Nelson and RHP Doug Waechter on minor league contracts.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS—Agreed to terms with INF Aaron Miles on a one-year contract.

SAN DIEGO PADRES—Named Bill Masse manager of San Antonio (Texas), Shane Spencer hitting coach of Lake Elsinore (Cal) and Darrell Sherman hitting coach of Eugene (NWL).

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association

NBA—Suspended New York F Zach Randolph one game without pay for throwing his headband and hitting an official in a Jan. 2 game.

FOOTBALL
National Football League

GREEN BAY PACKERS—Signed G Ryan Keenan to the practice squad.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League

CAROLINA HURRICANES—Assigned G John Grahame to Albany (AHL).

DALLAS STARS—Assigned LW Chris Conner to Iowa (AHL).

COLLEGE

EASTERN WASHINGTON—Named Beau Baldwin football coach.

NORTH DAKOTA—Named Chris Musssman football coach.

NFL playoffs

Wild-card Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 5

Washington at Seattle, 4:30 p.m. (NBC)
Jacksonville at Pittsburgh, 8 p.m. (NBC)

Sunday, Jan. 6

N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m. (FOX)
Tennessee at San Diego, 4:30 p.m. (CBS)

Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 12

Seattle, Tampa Bay or N.Y. Giants at Green Bay, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)
Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Tennessee at New England, 8 p.m. (CBS)

Sunday, Jan. 13

San Diego, Pittsburgh or Jacksonville at Indianapolis, 1 p.m. (CBS)
Tampa Bay, N.Y. Giants or Washington at Dallas, 4:30 p.m. (FOX)

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 20

Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 3
Glendale, Ariz.

Latest Line

BEST BET: Washington enters the playoffs on a four game winning streak. The Redskins are playing great defense and quarterback Todd Collins has managed the offensive unit just like a 12-year veteran should. The team is firing on all cylinders right now and has been on a mission since the tragic death of All-Pro safety Sean Taylor. We look for the mission to continue today. Take Washington +3 for another Best Bet awinner.

NFL

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Today		
Wild Card Round		
SEATTLE	3 (40)	Washington
Jacksonville	3 (39)	PITT
Sunday, Jan 6		
Wild Card Round		
TAMPA BAY	3 (39)	NY Giants
SAN DIEGO	10 (40)	Tennessee

College Football Bowl Games

Favorite	Points	Underdog
Today		
International Bowl		
Rogers Centre-Toronto, Canada		
Rutgers	10 (60)	Ball State
Sunday, Jan 6		
GMAC Bowl		
Ladd Peebles Stadium-Mobile, Al.		
Tulsa	5 (76)	Bowling Green
Monday, Jan 7		
BCS Championship Game		
Louisiana Superdome		
New Orleans, LA.		
LSU	4 (48)	Ohio State

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
ATLANTA	4	New Jersey
DETROIT	3	Boston
HOUSTON	7	New York
CHICAGO	7	Sacramento
PHOENIX	7	New Orleans
PORTLAND	4	Utah

College Basketball

Favorite	Points	Underdog
NC CHAROTTE	2	Maryland
Kansas	11	BOSTON COL
SYRACUSE	8	S. Florida
WISCONSIN	17	Iowa
MEMPHIS	29	Pepperdine
PURDUE	13	Michigan
Georgetown	16	RUTGERS
BUTLER	11	Valparaiso
UTAH	14	Air Force
OKLAHOMA	26	Baylor
Louisville	2	KENTUCKY
Ucla	5	CALIFORNIA
ST. JOHN'S	3	Cincinnati

HOME TEAM in CAPS.

College football stuck in time warp with black coaches

Jobs still going mostly to white coaches.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — When Ohio State and LSU face off in the BCS championship game Monday night, some of the best on the field will be black players.

Glenn Dorsey. Beanie Wells. Kirston Pittman. Brian Robiskie. Early Doucet. Vernon Gholston.

Then check out the sidelines. They might as well put out a "Whites Only" sign for the guys running the teams.

College football is stuck in a time warp, stubbornly hanging on to a segregated system that largely keeps minorities from landing the top coaching jobs.

Oh sure, every school has at least one or two black coaches on its staff, but they are generally limited to anonymous position jobs such as running backs coach or secondary coach — spots that tend to have a large number of minority players.

"Ever since I've been in coaching, there's been that frustration ... of not feeling like you can reach the pinnacle of your career in terms of being a head coach," said LSU assistant head coach Larry Porter.

With another hiring season nearly complete, college football is left with just six black coaches among the 119 schools in the NCAA's top division — the same number as this season.

Those sort of figures sound like something out of the Jim Crow era, not a year when a black man is making a serious bid to become president of the United States.

"Pathetic," said Richard Lapchick, a sports sociologist at Central Florida. "When I met Eddie Robinson in 1997 to start work on an autobiography with him, there were eight African-American coaches. When I spoke at his funeral this year, there were only six. Eight was the all-time high, and even then it was low. Now, it's even more so."

The two BCS finalists mirror the sport in general. Ohio State has a white head coach, Jim Tressel, and two white coordinators.

Same for LSU, which has Les Miles at head coach and white men running both the offense and defense.

While Porter has the important-sounding title of assistant head coach, his main responsibility is coaching running backs. Gary Crowton directs the offense, with Miles getting the final say.

The Buckeyes and Tigers are hardly alone.

Schools playing in BCS bowls were 10-for-10 when it came to having white coaches, and just three had coordinators of color.

One was Kevin Sumlin, the co-offensive coordinator at Oklahoma and the only black man to be hired as a head coach for 2008. He took over at Houston after Oklahoma's loss to West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl.

Then there are guys such as Porter and Georgia's highly regarded recruiting coordinator, Rodney Garner.

Between them, they have 28 years of coaching experience. Between them, they have zero interviews for a top job.

"You'd like to see a system where everyone is judged on their own merit," Garner said before the Bulldogs defeated Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl, held on the same field where the national title will be decided. "Do I think my resume is comparable to some? Yeah, I do."

Yet, Garner continues to wait for an opportunity that might never come, at least under the current system where influential boosters — nearly all of them rich white men — have a major say in who runs the football program.

It's the ultimate old boy's network, with deals being hammered out at whites-only country clubs or exclusive golf courses.

"I don't know if there's a resistance to hiring black coaches, but I do know that people are more comfortable hiring people they know," Porter said. "I think that's most of it."

The Black Coaches and Administrators association has led the fight to bring more diversity to the coaching ranks, yelling and screaming about the low numbers, getting the support of NCAA president Myles Brand, but making little real progress in changing the way business is done.

SPORTS

NHL may go outdoors again

Shea, Yankee stadiums could be next for open air hockey.

By IRA PODELL
AP Hockey Writer

Line 'em up.

After watching the Buffalo Sabres and Pittsburgh Penguins play in the snow, the potential sites for the next outdoor game are limitless.

How about a winter farewell to New York's Yankee Stadium or Shea Stadium, which both have one baseball season left before they are replaced by new digs.

The Rangers could play the local Islanders or New Jersey Devils, or even the Bruins in a new chapter of the New York-Boston rivalry on the field where Joe DiMaggio and Ted Williams faced off.

There has already been some buzz that the Penguins might face the Philadelphia Flyers in an all-Pennsylvania showdown in Happy Valley, right on the field where Joe Paterno has roamed the Penn State football sideline for decades.

Or maybe in Michigan. Detroit has apparently lost the title of "Hockeytown," but the Red Wings could look to create a new one in Ann Arbor at the Big House.

Just think if the rival Colorado Avalanche came there, or even the Chicago Blackhawks in what would be a compelling Original Six matchup.

The success of the Penguins, pictured above, against Buffalo in an outdoors hockey game has the NHL thinking about an encore.

"It was great. It was fun to watch," Avalanche coach Joel Quenneville said of Pittsburgh's 2-1 shootout win over Buffalo at Ralph Wilson Stadium. "It brings back old-time memories, when you're out there skating and get hit with a snowflake in the eye while in the backyard, around the lake."

The NHL has pulled off the event twice in the regular season, and drew a league-record crowd for the New Year's Day matchup this week. Ratings were up, too, and when was the last time hockey could claim that?

If it'll play in Buffalo, how about a Montreal-Toronto matchup with the roof open at the former SkyDome?

"If we played outdoor every game, it would be neat," Sabres forward Jason Pominville said. "It takes a lot of preparation, but it we can do it once a year, I don't see why we couldn't do it every year."

COYOTES HOWL: Wayne Gretzky is still enjoying his time behind the bench three seasons into his coaching stint with the Phoenix Coyotes.

He is also still looking for his first playoff appearance in the desert.

Entering the weekend, the Coyotes sat in 11th place in the Western Conference, three spots and four points below the postseason cutoff.

"We really like what we've done to this point and time," Gretzky said. "We've got a long way to go, and we're the first team to realize that. We knew we were going to play a lot of our young guys ... we didn't anticipate or expect at this point in time in the season they'd play the minutes they're playing and they would progress at the level and pace they've progressed at.

"We're getting good production and our veteran players have been tremendous with our young guys."

Even though the Coyotes are fourth in the five-team Pacific Division, they are over .500 (20-18-1). Phoenix hasn't posted a winning record since going 40-27-9-6 in the 2001-02 season, the last time the Coyotes made the playoffs. Gretzky, already the Coyotes' managing partner, took over as coach in August 2005 after the NHL lockout ended.

Bill HUGHES

Is Mania wrestling's Super Bowl?

For years, the WWF/WWE tried to build up WrestleMania as "the Super Bowl of professional wrestling."

Considering that this year's version of the event takes place in the Citrus Bowl in Orlando, Fla., serious consideration to the "Super Bowl" statement has to be given serious thought, even by non-wrestling fans.

When Mania takes place on March 30, it will be the fifth time in the past eight years that the "Granddaddy of them all" takes place in a dome or stadium.

Only three times in the first 16 years of the event (at III in the Pontiac Silverdome outside of Detroit, at VI in the Skydome in Toronto and at VIII at the Hoosierdome in Indianapolis) has the WWF/WWE held Mania at a venue that held more than 22,000 people.

Those days seem to be long gone as the only times since 2001 that Mania was not held in a dome was at XX (Madison Square Garden), 21 (Staples Center in Los Angeles), and 22 (All-State Arena in Chicago).

In each case, the WWE did a retro-reunion to celebrate anniversaries.

So has Mania reached the level of the Super Bowl?

While it has not been announced yet where the event will take place from next year, Phoenix has been rumored to get the event in 2010.

According to the Wrestling Observer newsletter, a Swedish newspaper Expressen had an interview with Wayne Greztsky, as he was wearing a Wrestlemania 2010 jersey called "Destruction in the Desert."

Has Mania reached the point to where cities will start bidding for the event?

If so, then it truly has reached the level of the Super Bowl.

FINAL RESOLUTION SUNDAY

TNA will hold their first PPV Sunday night when they present "Final Resolution."

The main event will be a TNA championship match between Kurt Angle and Christian Cage.

2008 DVD's

Earlier this week, a list of DVD's that the WWE will release in 2008 was made public. On the 28-DVD list includes 14 PPV's, as well as features on different wrestlers.

The list includes: Steve Austin (February 12th release date), Triple H (3/25), Hardy's (5/6), the Rock (6/3), the Best of Starrcade (7/8), the SummerSlam Anthology set (8/5), Mr. Perfect (9/9), a DVD on the history of Hell in the Cell (10/7), Edge (11/4), Randy Savage (11/18), and Sting (12/9).

The Starrcade DVD stands out because if means that Vince McMahon will recognize the NWA/WCW's version of WrestleMania for the first time.

The Cell DVD is coming out almost 10 years to the day of the original match between Shawn Michaels and the Undertaker.

The Sting DVD is interesting because he never wrestled for the WWE.

The one that sticks out to me the most is the DVD on Savage.

While no one knows for sure the reason, Savage is the one legend that McMahon has never welcomed back. At one time very close friends, the two have not talked in years.

While there have always been rumors about a personal situation that ruined their friendship, it will be interesting to see if the DVD is a positive one or if McMahon buries Savage like he did the Ultimate Warrior.

Email questions/comments to powerhousehughes@hotmail.com.

Bowl season much like Iowa caucuses

Both go a long way to sway voters' choices in the fall.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The bowl season is a lot like the Iowa caucuses.

Both take place in midwinter. And both help shape the voters' choices in the fall.

That's why Georgia coach Mark Richt began stumping for his Bulldogs a few minutes after their resounding 41-10 victory over Hawaii in the Bourbon Street primary, otherwise known as the Sugar Bowl.

Normally, a tradition-laden Southeastern Conference squad wouldn't squawk much about pounding a Western Athletic Conference opponent. But Richt used the occasion as a platform to pander for votes.

"We hope we're ranked high preseason," Richt said. "I think we're going to return a very good football team."

Richt went on to say that projecting success in the SEC is "pretty brash. And I'm not going to do that. But I do think that we're going to have a more veteran team than we've had in a while, and I think we'll have some good depth, and I think we'll have a chance to make a run at it."

The message Richt was trying to get across to the voters: don't forget the Dawgs when you fill out your ballots next summer.

This is one of the chronic problems in college football. You thought NASCAR was the only sport where poll position matters?

LSU finished second in the BCS standings, right where it began in the coaches and media polls last August. The Tigers' high preseason position came in handy when they lost — twice.

Certainly, Richt knows this; Georgia was 13th in both preseason polls and couldn't overcome its two losses.

The voters can always surprise us, as this week's results from Iowa underscored. Just don't be stunned if UGA and Friends are No. 1 in The Associated Press Top 25 and USA Today coaches poll next August.

Georgia's breathtaking mix of strength and speed in the Sugar will be among the passel of impressions left on the pollsters during this bowl season.

They'll remember West Virginia's ballcarriers weaving through the Oklahoma Sooners as if they were traffic cones.

The Mountaineers return quarterback Pat White, who ran for 150 yards and passed for 176 more and two touchdowns. Tailback Steve Slaton hasn't said whether he'll come back for his senior year. If he doesn't return, West Virginia will plug in freshman tailback Noel Devine, who tore through OU for 108 yards and two touchdowns after Slaton left with a hamstring injury.

The voters will remember Missouri's Cotton Bowl rout of an Arkansas team coming off a win over Louisiana State — in Baton Rouge.

They'll remember Kansas — 12-1 Kansas, mind you — turning to its oft-maligned defense to beat Virginia Tech in the Orange; and USC wiping its cleats on Illinois in the Rose.

What do those results have to do with next season? A lot, as far as poll positioning goes.

Look back at the last bowl season, which culminated with Florida crushing Ohio State 41-14 in the BCS title game.

The success of the Penguins, pictured above, against Buffalo in an outdoors hockey game has the NHL thinking about an encore.

Both teams lost their starting quarterbacks. Both teams returned a ton of talent. But the Gators opened the 2007 season at No. 6 in the AP Top 25, five slots ahead of the Buckeyes.

Likewise, USC opened at No. 1, four slots ahead of the Michigan team it drubbed in the Rose Bowl.

In fact, the top four teams in the 2007 preseason AP Top 25 — USC, LSU, West Virginia and Texas — were coming off bowl victories.

Pressed to make intelligent football decisions in the middle of baseball season, the voters pore over media guides and surf the Web until their eyes glaze. They read preseason magazines that go to press around Easter.

Many will make judgments based on what they saw this week.

It's only human. That's the last time any of these teams took a snap, not counting the spring game.

Coaches demand their players think about one game at time. Forget about next week, let alone next year.

Still, players understand their bowl performances will resonate for months.

Georgia defensive end Marcus Howard, the Sugar Bowl MVP, said next season was on the Bulldogs' minds as they battered Hawaii this week.

"We wanted to set them up to be at least (a) top three ranking, I guess top five ranking for the nation," said Howard, a senior.

Likewise, the Sooners hope another fiasco in the Fiesta won't cost them too dearly on next season's first ballots. The 48-28 loss to West Virginia was OU's fourth straight BCS defeat.

"It will stick with us throughout the next year," OU linebacker Curtis Lofton said.

Well, at least through the preseason polls.

Clemens, Pettitte asked to testify

Congress wants to ask star pitchers about steroids under oathe.

WASHINGTON (AP) — Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte were asked Friday to testify before a congressional committee on Jan. 16, along with their former trainer, Brian McNamee.

Also invited to appear before the House Oversight Committee were former Mets clubhouse attendant Kirk Radomski, whose allegations were a central part of last month's Mitchell report on doping in baseball. Former All-Star second baseman Chuck Knoblauch also was asked to speak to the panel.

"It could be a circus with players, true," the committee's minority staff director, David Marin, said in a telephone interview. "But if you tailor it right and invite people who clearly have pertinent information about the substance of the report, then it's anything but a circus. It's substantive. That's what Democrats and Republicans have agreed to here."

A day earlier, the committee is to hear testimony from baseball commissioner Bud Selig, union leader Donald Fehr and former Senate majority leader George Mitchell.

"The original hearing was called to examine the Mitchell recommendations and findings. The committee has decided to hold a second day of hearings for the very same reason — to invite people with varying perspectives on the Mitchell report to shed further light on it," Marin said.

McNamee told Mitchell he had injected seven-time Cy Young Award winner Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone during the 1998, 2000 and 2001 seasons. Clemens, in an interview to be broadcast by CBS's "60 Minutes" on Sunday, said McNamee injected him with vitamins and painkillers but not performance-enhancing drugs.

Pettitte acknowledged McNamee injected him with HGH twice while the pitcher was recovering from an injury.

McNamee told Mitchell he acquired HGH from Radomski for Knoblauch in 2001, and that he injected him with it.

Radomski pleaded guilty in April to federal felony charges of distributing steroids and laundering money, and he is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 8.

Although none of the people asked to testify under oath Jan. 16 had agreed to appear as of late Friday afternoon, the committee's announcement listed Clemens and others under the heading, "Witnesses will include."

Said Marin: "We always presume that invited witnesses will appear."

E-mails to attorneys for Clemens and McNamee and a phone call to Radomski's lawyer were not immediately returned.

This is the same panel of lawmakers that convened the March 2005 hearing where Mark McGwire refused to say whether he had used performance-enhancing drugs. Sammy Sosa said he had never knowingly used illegal performance-enhancing drugs, while Rafael Palmeiro denied using drugs but tested positive later that year for a steroid.

The leaders of the committee, California Democrat Henry Waxman and Virginia Republican Tom Davis, were among several members of the House and Senate who sponsored legislation in 2005, proposing to mandate stronger steroid testing and penalties for baseball and other U.S. professional sports leagues.

Another committee has scheduled a Jan. 23 hearing on the Mitchell report.

SPORTS HISTORY

30 Years Ago

Sophomre Melanie Moskola had 18 points in Monessen's 56-45 loss to Uniontown.

Barb Biagini outscored Southmorland with 23 points in Ringgold's 58-18 romp.

Debbie Fallenstein scored 23 point sin Charleroi's 56-38 loss to Yough.

Diane Bury scored 21 points in Mon Valley Catholic's 52-29 win over Bentworth.

Bob Leahy left Pitt as offensive coordinator to take the same post at the University of California.

20 Years Ago

Monessen snaps a three-game losing skid at Perryopolis with a 74-44 win behind Jimbo Malinchak's 22 points.

Charleroi shaded Clairton, 58-54, behind Paul Williams' 18 points.

Dave Haller scored 27 points in Mon Valley Catholic's 81-70 win over California.

Steve Kovatch poured in 32 points in Belle Vernon Area's 76-73 loss to Uniontown.

Craig Taylor's 18 points were high in Ringgold's 61-57 defeat to McKeesport.

College basketball's all-time scoring leader Pete Maravich died at the age of 40 while playing in a pickup game.

10 Years Ago

Latitia Williams had 20 points and 22 rebounds in Monessen's 56-38 win over West Greene.

Kristen Lancas had 14 points in Ringgold's 44-38 loss to Laurel Highlands.

California outlasted Frazier, 61-60, in overtime behind Chaley Popelas' 25 points.

TV & ENT

Dear old Dad wants to tell son not to marry this girl

Dear **ABBY**

DEAR ABBY: I have been faithfully married for more than 20 years. My wife and I are known as the "cute couple" who still hold hands in public, take time to play together, and never say a negative word about each other in public.

My son, who has just turned 19, wants to marry somebody "just like Mom," whom he views as the world's greatest wife and mother. He's making good on this and has begun getting serious with a young woman who is much like his mother in many crucial ways.

At this point, how do I tell my son that the biggest mistake of my life was marrying his mother, and his future happiness depends on getting away from this girl before it's too late? The girl he is dating shows the same severe anxiety disorders as my wife, and manipulates him through learned helplessness and (presumably) the same psychosomatic chronic illnesses. She displays the severe mood swings that have made my wife completely ineffectual as a mother and companion.

My wife's disorders completely dominate our lives, as she refuses any therapy. I have had no choice but to surrender and make do, abandoning a wonderful career — Ph.D. from a top business school, lots of international travel and high ambitions — to live in squalor and relative poverty, hating my life and longing for the freedom that will come from one or the other of us passing on.

I have done a good job of hiding my agony from my wife and children, accepting that which I cannot change, and I have been careful to be as supportive as possible and never undercut her position in her eyes or the kids'. My son shows the same potential that I once had. How do I help him not ruin his life as I have ruined mine? — **MISERABLE IN THE NORTHEAST**

DEAR MISERABLE: First, remind your son that marriage should be postponed until he completes his education. Then realize that although you want to help him avoid the disappointment and frustration that you have experienced, you may not be able to save him after keeping him blindfolded all these years.

A giant step in the right direction would be to sit him down and tell him exactly what you have told me. And when you do, point out that because you did not confront the problem and insist that your wife get treatment for her emotional problems, you became her enabler, because in addition to her illness, your failure to intervene is what ruined your marriage.

DEAR ABBY: I have an etiquette question. When going out for an office luncheon in honor of someone's departure, new hire, baby shower, etc., and the boss is picking up the tab, is it proper to order what you really want from the menu?

For example: If six people at the table order soup and salad, but what I really want is the salmon stuffed with crabmeat, would that be considered improper, even though the boss says, "Order whatever you want"? — **KAT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.**

DEAR KAT: Usually when a host treats guests to lunch, he or she will set an example by saying, "I'm having the [illegible], but feel free to order whatever you'd like." If the entree the boss selects costs $15, then the polite guest should stay within that limit.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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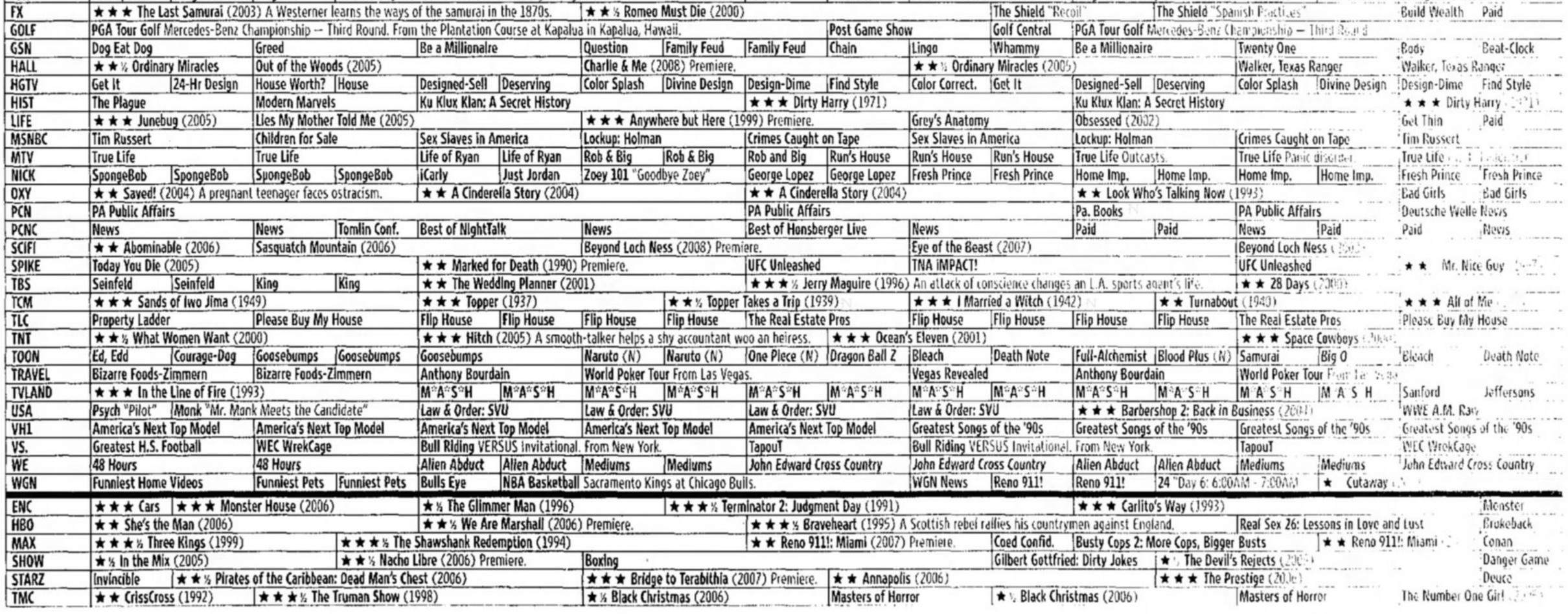
online at
www.valleyindependent.com

SATURDAY EVENING

JAN. 5, 2008

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS (2) KDKA (7) WTRF (10) WTAJ	News (N)	CBS Evening News (N)	(2) News/ (7) Entertainment Tonight/ (10) Inside Edition Weekend	(2) The Insider (N)/ (10) Two and a Half Men "Just Like Buffalo"	★★½ High Crimes (2002) An attorney tries to prove her husband's innocence after the military accuses him of murder.				48 Hours Mystery "Death Without Mercy" A marriage goes up in smoke. (N)		News (N)	CSI: Miami "Dead Zone" A treasure hunter is found shot to his yacht with a harpoon.		(2) CSI: Miami "Hard Time" / (7) Without a Trace "Bait" / (10) Cold Case "Sin City"		(2) Lyons & Bailes Reel Talk/ (7) Cold Case/ (10) Without a Trace	Made in Hollywood: Teen Edition	Paid Prog./ (7) Inside Edition/ (10) At the Movies-Ebert & Roeper
ABC (4) WTAE (23) WATM	(4) News (N)/ (23) Paid	ABC's World News Saturday (N)	Presidential Debate Republican and Democratic hopefuls discuss issues.								(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N)/ (23) News (N)	(4) Ebert & Roeper/ (23) Law/Ord SVU	(4) Access Hollywood (N)	(23) Lyons & Bailes Reel Talk (N)	(4) Paid/ (23) Girls Behaving Badly	Paid	Paid	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11/ (23) Paid
NBC (6) WJAC (9) WTOV (11) WPXI	NFL Football NFC Wild Card — Washington Redskins at Seattle Seahawks. The Wild Card Redskins take on the NFC West Champion Seahawks. From Qwest Field in Seattle.				NFL Football AFC Wild Card — Jacksonville Jaguars at Pittsburgh Steelers. The Wild Card Jaguars battle the AFC North Champion Steelers. From Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.						News (N)	Saturday Night Live Peyton Manning, Carrie Underwood.			(6) (9) Star Trek/ (11) Jerome Bettis Show	(11) NASCAR Angels	(6) Masterminds/ (9) Entertainers/ (11) Da Vinci's Inquest	(6) Masterminds
FOX (8) WWCP (53) WPGH	(8) Paid/ (53) Two and a Half Men	(8) The King of Queens/ (53) Friends	(8) American Idol Rewind/ (53) Friends	(53) Seinfeld Jerry and George write series pilot.	Cops Officers pursue an intoxicated suspect.	Cops Carjacking suspect; domestic violence.	America's Most Wanted: America Fights Back (N)		(8) News (N)/ (53) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10 (N)	(8) Seinfeld/ (53) Two and a Half Men	Mad TV Carlos Mencia.		Talkshow With Spike Feresten	Paid	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) Paid/ (53) Sex and the City	(8) Make Up Solth/ (53) Pursuit-Happi.	(8) Real Estate Millionaire Show
(13) WQED	Antiques Roadshow "Savannah, Georgia"		The Lawrence Welk Show "Music Memories"		Keeping Up Appearances	Are You Being Served?	As Time Goes By	Waiting for God	The New Red Green Show	Excellent Adventures	Now: PNH and Big Ben	Rare Visions-Revelations	Member's Favorites					
(19) WPCW	Cold Case "Red Glare"		Without a Trace "Bait"		Steelers Saturday Night		The King of Queens	The King of Queens	The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Steelers TV	Paid	Paid	Girls Behaving Badly	Showtime at the Apollo (N) Valentine.		Girls Behaving Badly	That '70s Show
(22) WPMY	★★ Call of the Wild (1972)		Family Guy	Family Guy	Decision House		Control Room Presents (N)		UFC Wired		Helpline TV		One on One	One on One	My Wife-Kids	Paid	Soul Train	
(40) WPCB	Something Fresh		Breakthrough		Bananas		Theater	Heritage	Van Impe	Quick Study	Wisdom Keys	ATF TV	Greater Works Outreach		Theater	Extreme Life	Manna-Fest	Gospel Truth
(59) WBGN	TBA	Paid	TBA	Paid	The Collector		Stargate SG-1 "Uninvited"		It's Alive!				Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
A&E	The Whole Nine Yards				★★ U.S. Marshals (1998)					Paranormal	Flip This House		★★ U.S. Marshals (1998)					Paranormal
ABCFAM	★★★ Meet the Parents (2000)				★★★ Mrs. Doubtfire (1993) An estranged dad poses as a nanny to be with his children.						★★★ The Mask of Zorro (1998) Zorro's protege crosses swords with a returning foe.						Paid	Paid
AMC	★★½ Dante's Peak (1997)				★★★½ Jurassic Park (1993)					★★★★ Close Encounters of the Third Kind (1977)						★★★ Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea		
ANPL	Animal Precinct		Profiles of Nature		The Most Extreme		Avalanche Dogs (N)		Growing Up... "Wolf"		The Most Extreme		Avalanche Dogs		Growing Up... Wolf		Profiles of Nature	
BBC	Doctor Who		Doctor Who		Torchwood "Invisible Eugene"		Torchwood "Out of Time"		The Graham Norton Show (N)		Torchwood "Invisible Eugene"		Torchwood "Out of Time"		The Graham Norton Show		Doctor Who	
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live			Hell Date	Wayans Bros.	Wayans Bros.	Girlfriends	Girlfriends	Girlfriends	Girlfriends	★★½ Eddie Murphy Raw (1987)				Comicview		American Gangster	
BRAVO	Project Runway		Project Runway		★★★ Batman (1989) Premiere.					★★★ Batman (1989)					★★★ Cliffhanger (1993)			
CMT	★★★ Urban Cowboy (1980)				Dale (2005)				CMT Music	Simon Cowell	My Truck	My Truck	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	CMT Insider	CMT Music	
CNBC	Build Wealth	Paid	Deal or No Deal		The Apprentice		The Suze Orman Show (N)		Deal or No Deal		The Apprentice		The Suze Orman Show		Deal or No Deal		Paid	Work Home
CNN	Lou Dobbs This Week		This Week at War		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		Newsroom		Special Investigations		Larry King Live		CNN Saturday Night		Special Investigations	
COM	Reno 911!	Reno 911!	Scrubs	Scrubs	Gabriel Iglesias: Hot-Fluffy		★★½ Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery (1997)				Ralphie May: Prime Cut		Chappelle's	Chappelle's	Chris Rock: Bigger & Blacker			Chris Rock
COURT	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Evidence	Evidence	Arrest & Trial	Arrest & Trial	Hwd. Justice	Hwd. Justice	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Evidence	Evidence	Arrest & Trial	Arrest & Trial
CSPAN	Pres. Address	Commun.	America & the Courts		American Perspectives						American Perspectives						C-SPAN Weekend	
DISC	MythBusters		How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made	How It's Made
DISNEY	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Cory In House	★★ Max Keeble's Big Move (2001)			Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Han. Montana	Replacements	Kim Possible	Emperor New	Dragon	Buzz Light	Timon
E!	THS Investigates Diet Fads		E! News Weekend		★★ Drop Dead Gorgeous (1999)				Saturday Night Live		The Soup	Chelsea	Forbes 20 Under 25		Saturday Night Live		The Soup	Chelsea
ESPN	2007 World Series of Poker		SportsCenter		College GameDay		College Basketball Connecticut at Notre Dame.				SportsCenter		NFL	Midnight	SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
ESPNC	College Basketball Cincinnati at St. John's.				College Basketball Providence at DePaul.				Boxing		U.S. Poker Championship		U.S. Poker Championship		U.S. Poker Championship		U.S. Poker Championship	
ESPN2	Figure Skating ISU Grand Prix Final. From Torino, Italy.						Figure Skating Grand Prix of Paris. From Paris.						Fastbreak	NFL's Greatest Game			Super Bowl	Super Bowl
EWTN	Mother Angelica-Classic		Daily Mass: Our Lady		Brother Andre Montreal shrine.			Holy Rosary	To Be Announced		The Journey Home		Daily Mass: Our Lady		Fr. Corapi		Brother Andre	
FNC	Fox News Live		Fox Report		Geraldo at Large		Special Programming		Red Eye		Jrnl Edit. Rpt	Beltway Boys	Geraldo at Large		The Line-Up		Red Eye	
FOOD	Giada In Paradise: Santorini		Deen Family Vacation		All Star Healthy Makeover (N)		All Star Live: South Beach		Grill-Fest: South Beach		Iron Chef America		All Star Live: South Beach		Grill-Fest: South Beach		Iron Chef America	
FSN	FSN Special	Penguins	Pregame	NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Pittsburgh Penguins.					FSN Live	Final Score	FSN Pro Football Preview		Toughest Cowboy (R)		Final Score	Final Score	College Basketball	
FX	★★★ The Last Samurai (2003) A Westerner learns the ways of the samurai in the 1870s.				★★½ Romeo Must Die (2000)							The Shield "Recoil"	The Shield "Spanish Practices"				Build Wealth	Paid
GOLF	PGA Tour Golf Mercedes-Benz Championship -- Third Round. From the Plantation Course at Kapalua in Kapalua, Hawaii.									Post Game Show		Golf Central	PGA Tour Golf Mercedes-Benz Championship — Third Round					
GSN	Dog Eat Dog		Greed		Be a Millionaire		Question	Family Feud	Family Feud	Chain	Lingo	Whammy	Be a Millionaire		Twenty One		Body	Beat-Clock
HALL	★★½ Ordinary Miracles		Out of the Woods (2005)				Charlie & Me (2008) Premiere.				★★½ Ordinary Miracles (2005)				Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
HGTV	Get It	24-Hr Design	House Worth?	House	Designed-Sell	Deserving	Color Splash	Divine Design	Design-Dime	Find Style	Color Correct.	Get It	Designed-Sell	Deserving	Color Splash	Divine Design	Design-Dime	Find Style
HIST	The Plague		Modern Marvels		Ku Klux Klan: A Secret History				★★★ Dirty Harry (1971)				Ku Klux Klan: A Secret History				★★★ Dirty Harry (1971)	
LIFE	★★★ Junebug (2005)		Lies My Mother Told Me (2005)				★★★ Anywhere but Here (1999) Premiere.				Grey's Anatomy		Obsessed (2002)				Get Thin	Paid
MSNBC	Tim Russert		Children for Sale		Sex Slaves in America		Lockup: Holman		Crimes Caught on Tape		Sex Slaves in America		Lockup: Holman		Crimes Caught on Tape		Tim Russert	
MTV	True Life		True Life		Life of Ryan	Life of Ryan	Rob & Big	Rob & Big	Rob and Big	Run's House	Run's House	Run's House	True Life Outcasts.		True Life Panic disorder.		True Life	
NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	iCarly	Just Jordan	Zoey 101 "Goodbye Zoey"		George Lopez	George Lopez	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince
OXY	★★ Saved! (2004) A pregnant teenager faces ostracism.				★★ A Cinderella Story (2004)				★★ A Cinderella Story (2004)				★★ Look Who's Talking Now (1993)				Bad Girls	Bad Girls
PCN	PA Public Affairs								PA Public Affairs				Pa. Books		PA Public Affairs		Deutsche Welle News	
PCNC	News		News	Tomlin Conf.	Best of NightTalk		News		Best of Honsberger Live		News		Paid	Paid	News	Paid	Paid	News
SCIFI	★★ Abominable (2006)		Sasquatch Mountain (2006)				Beyond Loch Ness (2008) Premiere.				Eye of the Beast (2007)				Beyond Loch Ness (2008)			
SPIKE	Today You Die (2005)				★★ Marked for Death (1990) Premiere.				UFC Unleashed		TNA iMPACT!				UFC Unleashed		★★ Mr. Nice Guy (1997)	
TBS	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	King	★★ The Wedding Planner (2001)				★★★½ Jerry Maguire (1996) An attack of conscience changes an L.A. sports agent's life.						★★ 28 Days (2000)			
TCM	★★★ Sands of Iwo Jima (1949)				★★★ Topper (1937)			★★½ Topper Takes a Trip (1939)			★★★ I Married a Witch (1942)			★★ Turnabout (1940)			★★★ All of Me	
TLC	Property Ladder		Please Buy My House		Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	The Real Estate Pros		Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	Flip House	The Real Estate Pros		Please Buy My House	
TNT	★★½ What Women Want (2000)				★★★ Hitch (2005) A smooth-talker helps a shy accountant woo an heiress.					★★★ Ocean's Eleven (2001)					★★★ Space Cowboys (2003)			
TOON	Ed, Edd	Courage-Dog	Goosebumps	Goosebumps	Goosebumps		Naruto (N)	Naruto (N)	One Piece (N)	Dragon Ball Z	Bleach	Death Note	Full-Alchemist	Blood Plus (N)	Samurai	Big O	Bleach	Death Note
TRAVEL	Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Bizarre Foods-Zimmern		Anthony Bourdain		World Poker Tour From Las Vegas.				Vegas Revealed		Anthony Bourdain		World Poker Tour From Las Vegas			
TVLAND	★★★ In the Line of Fire (1993)				M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Sanford	Jeffersons
USA	Psych "Pilot"	Monk "Mr. Monk Meets the Candidate"			Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: SVU		★★★ Barbershop 2: Back in Business (2004)				WWE A.M. Raw	
VH1	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		Greatest Songs of the '90s		Greatest Songs of the '90s		Greatest Songs of the '90s		Greatest Songs of the '90s	
VS.	Greatest H.S. Football		WEC WrekCage		Bull Riding VERSUS Invitational. From New York.				TapouT		Bull Riding VERSUS Invitational. From New York.				TapouT		WEC WrekCage	
WE	48 Hours		48 Hours		Alien Abduct	Alien Abduct	Mediums	Mediums	John Edward Cross Country		John Edward Cross Country		Alien Abduct	Alien Abduct	Mediums	Mediums	John Edward Cross Country	
WGN	Funniest Home Videos		Funniest Pets	Funniest Pets	Bulls Eye	NBA Basketball Sacramento Kings at Chicago Bulls.					WGN News	Reno 911!	Reno 911!	24 "Day 6: 6:00AM - 7:00AM"	★ Cutaway (2006)			
ENC	★★★ Cars	★★★ Monster House (2006)			★½ The Glimmer Man (1996)			★★★½ Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991)					★★★ Carlito's Way (1993)					Monster
HBO	★★ She's the Man (2006)				★★½ We Are Marshall (2006) Premiere.				★★★½ Braveheart (1995) A Scottish rebel rallies his countrymen against England.				Real Sex 26: Lessons in Love and Lust					Brokeback
MAX	★★★½ Three Kings (1999)		★★★½ The Shawshank Redemption (1994)						★★ Reno 911!: Miami (2007) Premiere.			Coed Confid.	Busty Cops 2: More Cops, Bigger Busts		★★ Reno 911!: Miami (2007)			Conan
SHOW	★½ In the Mix (2005)		★★½ Nacho Libre (2006) Premiere.		Boxing							Gilbert Gottfried: Dirty Jokes	★½ The Devil's Rejects (2005)					Danger Game
STARZ	Invincible	★★½ Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006)			★★★ Bridge to Terabithia (2007) Premiere.			★★ Annapolis (2006)					★★★ The Prestige (2006)					Deuce
TMC	★★ CrissCross (1992)		★★★½ The Truman Show (1998)		★½ Black Christmas (2006)			Masters of Horror			★½ Black Christmas (2006)		Masters of Horror				The Number One Girl (2006)	



FEATURES

Frugal Living

Lighten the load and save your back

Sara **NOEL**

DEAR SARA: I want to lighten my purse load. I got a backache from my purse this week. So I am trying to think of ways to streamline what I am carrying. What do you carry that is light? — **Mumzy, via forums**

DEAR MUMZY: I don't carry a purse. I haven't carried one in several years. I have a credit-card holder that I use as a wallet. It carries all of my important cards. I no longer worry about a purse that could be lost or stolen, and I have discovered I don't need all the items I used to haul around. I have a small tote bag that I sometimes pack in my car with handy items, such as baby wipes, snacks, sunscreen, pen, checkbook, pain reliever, facial tissue and a hairbrush.

DEAR SARA: My kids are adolescents and in early adulthood now. I have a lot of stuff stored. Some of these things they don't seem to care about, and others I feel are still useful. We have two row homes, and one of them is absolutely empty, so we are using it for storage. When I ask the kids what should I do with this or that, the answer is always the same — do whatever. Should I give it away or throw it out? Later, they may accuse me of discarding some important treasure. I'm open to suggestions. — **Greenboy, via e-mail**

DEAR GREENBOY: I'd give the older children all of their belongings, and they can decide what to do. You could also give them fair warning and set a deadline for them to sort through their stuff. If they miss the deadline, discard the items. For the younger children, I'd have them sit with you and decide what they want to keep, sell, donate or toss. Box up and store whatever's left if it can't be used regularly. This should pare things down. Giving your children fair warning is significantly different from the "mean parent" who simply discards belongings without warning. You're teaching them to be responsible. I grew up with the threat that anything not picked up and organized would be sent to children who appreciated the items. My mother had to donate them only once for me to understand she meant business. It's not an accident that I'm an organized adult. Good luck.

DEAR SARA: I need help organizing my life. I am now a stay-at-home mom with a 4-month-old son, and even though (on good days) I have enough time to get things done, I can't seem to complete the tasks at hand. I can get dinner cooked and keep the kitchen clean, but other than that everything is so-so. I just don't know how to get it all organized. Do you have certain things you do every day of the week? I feel so scattered! — **Daphne, Virginia**

DEAR DAPHNE: With four children, I have learned to accept less than perfection when it comes to my home. I decided to focus on what truly matters to me. I've also learned to ask for help. You're a new mom, so although it seems you have enough time, my guess is that you're busy caring for your baby. You probably start one task that used to take 10 minutes before the baby, and now it takes longer. When you finally get time to start or finish a task, you most likely are fighting whether to rest or face the millions of things you have to do. It's easy to get overwhelmed.

I try to do my housework first thing in the morning and last thing before bed, and I break tasks into five- to 10-minute slots of time throughout the day. It helps to make a list of priorities for your housework and stick with a routine. Take care, and don't be too hard on yourself. The moments you're spending with your little one are precious. Dust bunnies can wait.

Sara Noel is the owner of Frugal Village (www.frugalvillage.com), a Web site that offers practical, money-saving strategies for everyday living. To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com

CALENDAR WATCH

Sunday

- Spaghetti dinner, Belle Vernon Volunteer Fire Department, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Bingo, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Sutersville, 1 p.m.
- Grocery bingo resumes, Holy Ghost Byzantine Catholic Church, Charleroi, 1:30 p.m.

Monday

- Overeaters Anonymous meeting, Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, Rostraver Township, 10:30 a.m.
- Chicken pie sale, First Presbyterian Church of Belle Vernon.
- American Red Cross blood drive, First Baptist Church, Monongahela, 1 to 6:30 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Tobacco Free Coalition to meet

The Monessen Tobacco Free Coalition will meet 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday at the Monessen Public Library conference room. The goal of the coalition is to have tobacco free communities.

Donora Class of '60 plans get-together

Donora High School Class of 1960 will hold a get-together 6 p.m. Wednesday at Duke's Café. Spouses and friends are invited.

Annita Garibaldi Society to meet

The Annita Garibaldi Society will meet 7:30 p.m. Thursday in Belle Vernon. Yearly dues are being collected.

Blood drive set in Rostraver Twp.

A Central Blood Bank replenishment blood drive, to benefit Frank Tiboni, of Rostraver Township who was diagnosed with Mantle Cell Lymphoma, will be held 1 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the Rostraver Central Volunteer Fire Department, Fells Church Road, Rostraver Township.

Free breathing tests available in Monessen

Lungs at Work, a chronic respiratory disease program, will offer free breathing tests 10 to 11:30 a.m. Thursday at the Monessen Senior Center, 1925 Grand Boulevard. Along with the free screening, participants will be able to speak with Lungs at Work representatives and UMWA Funds staff.

Merchant Marine veterans to meet

The American Merchant Marine Veterans from the Mon Valley Chapter will meet 12:30 p.m. Thursday at Hoss's Steak and Sea House, E. Bruceton Road, Route 51, Pleasant Hills. For information, call (412) 466-0250.

Support group meeting planned

An Albert Gallatin Home Care & Hospice Caregiver Support Group meeting will be held 2 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday in the conference room at Albert Gallatin, 100 Stoops Drive, Suite 300, Monongahela, next to Mon Valley Care Center. Light refreshments will be served. For information, call 1-800-245-4144, extension 1222.

Donora smog meeting set

The Donora Smog Day meeting will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Donora Borough Building in council chambers on the first floor.

The 60th anniversary of the Donora smog is October of this year. Anyone who has stories, memorabilia or pictures can contact committee members DeAnne at (724) 825-3562, Diane at (724) 379-7387 or Mary at (724) 797-2653.

Sports Hall of Fame committee to meet

The Mid Mon Valley All Sports Hall of Fame selection committee will meet 7 Thursday at Bellmar Middle School.

ENGAGEMENTS

Comadena-Edwards

Louis and Linda Comadena, of Burr Ridge, Ill., have announced the engagement of their daughter, Laura Susan Comadena, to Matthew Jonathan Edwards, son of Robert and Carol Edwards, of Jerome, Mich.

Comadena is the granddaughter of Florence Comadena, of Belle Vernon. She is a graduate of Indiana University Kelley School of Business and is employed an an account executive by Arc Worldwide in Chicago.

Edwards graduated cum laude from Eastern Michigan University and is employed by Eugene Matthews Inc. of Chicago as a sales executive, as well as an actor.

A July 26, 2008, wedding in the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago is being planned by the couple.

Matthew J. Edwards & Laura S. Comadena

On Dec. 20, Charleroi Area Middle School held the final round of its annual spelling bee. Nine finalists from the sixth, seventh and eighth grades competed. The overall winner was sixth grader Danny Riskey, son of Dan and Sherry Riskey. First runner-up was eighth grader Damian Anders, son of Stephen and Joy Anders. Riskey is shown on the left, Anders on the right.

ODDS & ENDS

Cleaning women stuck in elevator for two days

NILES, Ill. (AP) — Two cleaning women, trapped inside a broken elevator for two days, survived on two cough drops and six aspirin until they were rescued.

Beata Bartoszewicz and her mother, Roma Borowski, entered an elevator in an empty building in this Chicago suburb on Dec. 22. After the elevator doors closed, the women discovered they were stuck on the first floor of the two-story building.

There was no response from an emergency call alarm and the women couldn't pry open the doors, Bartoszewicz said.

Neither had a cell phone or water and the building wasn't due to open until after Christmas.

The duo became dizzy from hunger. "I was close to thinking I was going to die," Bartoszewicz said.

The women tried to sleep on their coats and used a corner of the elevator as a bathroom.

Bartoszewicz said her mother continually reassured her.

"She kept saying, 'We're going to be OK, and we're going to spend Christmas Eve at home,'" the 25-year-old said.

Two days later, on Christmas Eve, an employee of the building happened to go to work. Borowski said she heard him talking on his cell phone. The women yelled for his attention and he heard them.

Fire crews freed the women an hour later.

Bartoszewicz said the moral of the story is simple: "Always take your cell phone with you."

Residents protest funeral home opening

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP) — Several older residents of this town are protesting plans to open a funeral home across the street from a senior center, saying it would be a little too close for comfort.

About 100 people have signed a petition calling on the City Council to deny James Asper and Mary Hansen, partners in Aspen Funeral Home LLC, a special use permit giving them the right to lease the building across the street from the Lake City Senior Center as a funeral home, senior center manager Vickie Harrison said. They plan to present the petition at a Feb. 5 hearing on the matter, she said.

"I don't like it at all. It kind of gives you an uncomfortable feeling," said 65-year-old Marg Dunkle, who signed the petition.

The city's planning commission approved a special use permit in December for the business, but a neighbor appealed the decision, citing concerns over traffic and parking.

Hansen said the building was chosen because it suited the business' needs, not because of its proximity to the senior center.

"We find it a little disconcerting that they would think that location is intentional," Hansen said.

Some, like 81-year-old Doy Seng, had a practical view of the proposed funeral home.

"We're old here. We're all ready to go," she said. "I think it will be handy."

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CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

Today's clue: D equals L

"EBU ES LN ZUJEUK OK MWJMOU. KZU LWN BER CE WBNRZOBP, MTR KZU WDXWNK DEEVK PJUWR CEOBP OR." - IWJOK ZODREB

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "I'm a pretty convenient foil for a lot of people." - Kevin Costner
"I'm the flavor of the month." - George Clooney

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www.valleyindependent.com

Librarian wins couch potato title

NEW YORK (AP) — A Manhattan librarian emerged as a champion couch potato after three rivals gave in to sleep deprivation or nature's call.

Stan Friedman won the ESPN Zone Ultimate Couch Potato Competition, which began Tuesday morning at the ESPN Zone restaurant in Times Square. The event ended after more than 29 grueling hours of continuous sports viewing — mainly college football bowl games and endless highlights loops.

He won a $5,000 prize package including a huge TV, a cozy recliner and a trophy with a potato on it.

CHRISTMAS CHEER CLUB

Kenneth Marsh III, 11 months old, joined the Christmas Cheer Club. He's the son of Kenneth Jr. and Renee Marsh, of Belle Vernon.

Dylan Wujcik, 6, joined the Christmas Cheer Club. He's the son of Joe and Cathy Wujcik, of Monongahela.

Tyler Jacobs, 8, joined the Christmas Cheer Club, representing his third grade class at California Elementary School.

Megan, 2, and Lindsey Roskoph, 4, joined the Christmas Cheer Club. They're the children of Kimberly and Jay Roskoph.

Michael Amber, 8, joined the Christmas Cheer Club, representing his third grade class at California Elementary School.

From left, 8-year-olds Enzo Mariscotti, Drake Johnson and Dominick Basile joined the Christmas Cheer Club, representing their third grade class at California Elementary School.

Tyler Guerra, 9, joined the Christmas Cheer Club, representing his third grade class at California Elementary School.

AREA CHURCH BRIEFS

Nativity of Christ services set

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Sixth St., Monongahela, will celebrate the Nativity of Christ according to the ancient Julian calendar on Monday.

The schedule of services includes:

On Sunday, Christmas Eve, the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Following the traditional Holy Night Supper in the homes of the parish members, the service of Great Compline with the Blessing of 5 Loaves, Wheat, Wine and Oil will begin at 7 p.m.

On Monday, Christmas Day, the Hours will be chanted at 9:45 a.m. with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great at 10 a.m., followed by Festive Anointing.

Christmas carolers will visit the homes of parishioners Tuesday and Wednesday.

Communion service set

The 11 a.m. Sunday worship at the Roscoe Presbyterian Church will center on the first celebration of the sacrament of Holy Communion of the New Year. Elder Richard Kara and, the pastor of the church, the Rev. Dr. John Rankin will share leadership of the service.

The Faith Seekers class will begin again 9:30 a.m. Jan. 13 in the church manse, led by the Rev. Millie Adams. Church school classes for children ages 4 through the sixth grade will resume 4 to 5:30 p.m. Jan. 15 in fellowship hall. The time includes an after-school snack, help with homework, Bible story, craft and a light supper. For information, call Michele Hartle at (724) 938-3703.

The January and February meetings of the Janet Ray Circle have been moved to the summer months. The next meeting of the circle will be noon March 12.

Meetings set at Marion

The Marion Presbyterian Church, 207 Perry Ave., Belle Vernon, will hold the following meetings Tuesday:

9 a.m. - Planning Team meeting

noon – Willing Workers class

6:30 p.m. – joint meeting of the Session and Deacons

Charismatic Masses discontinued

Because of the unavailability of priests, the regular monthly Charismatic Masses at St. Oliver Plunkett Parish, St. Michael Church, Fredericktown and Marianna, have been discontinued.

Officials cracking down on 'Amish taxis'

LUTHERSBURG, Pa. (AP) — The state Public Utility Commission is cracking down on operators of "Amish taxis" who regularly serve as drivers for members of the religious group but are not certified to carry passengers.

The PUC this fall began targeting the unlicensed "English" or non-Amish taxis serving more than 350 Amish families in Clearfield, Indiana and Jefferson counties. Amish religious beliefs bar owning or operating motor vehicles, so they rely on outsiders to drive them long distances or along roads that are too dangerous for horse-drawn buggies.

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Morning Worship..... 10:30 AM
Family Night, Wed..... 7:00 PM
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CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE
Christ Is Born - Glorify Him
Christmas Eve - January 6th
Compline & Matins
7:30pm
Christmas Day - January 7th
Divine Liturgy
10:00am

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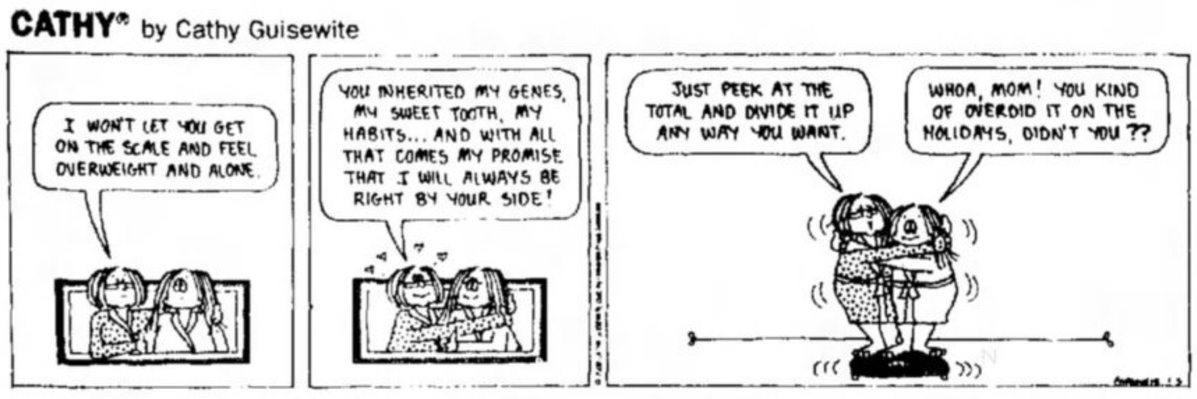
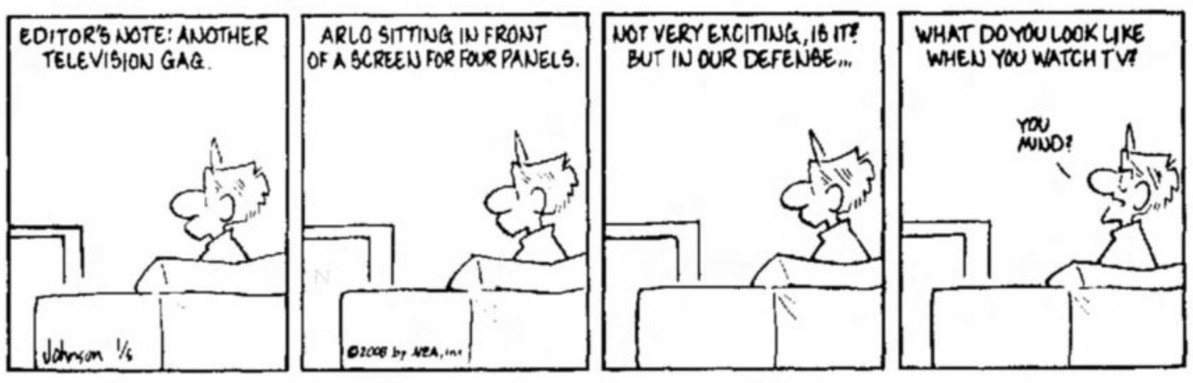
COMICS

CATHY® by Cathy Guisewite


I WON'T LET YOU GET ON THE SCALE AND FEEL OVERWEIGHT AND ALONE.
YOU INHERITED MY GENES, MY SWEET TOOTH, MY HABITS... AND WITH ALL THAT COMES MY PROMISE THAT I WILL ALWAYS BE RIGHT BY YOUR SIDE!
JUST PEEK AT THE TOTAL AND DIVIDE IT UP ANY WAY YOU WANT.
WHOA, MOM! YOU KIND OF OVERDID IT ON THE HOLIDAYS, DIDN'T YOU??

GARFIELD® by Jim Davis

ARLO and JANIS® by Jimmy Johnson


EDITOR'S NOTE: ANOTHER TELEVISION GAG.
ARLO SITTING IN FRONT OF A SCREEN FOR FOUR PANELS.
NOT VERY EXCITING, IS IT? BUT IN OUR DEFENSE...
WHAT DO YOU LOOK LIKE WHEN YOU WATCH TV?
YOU MIND?
Johnson 1/6
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Classic PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP MY BIG BROTHER..
HE TOLD ME NOT TO LET HIM OVERSLEEP..
IT'S HARD TO KNOW JUST HOW TO WAKE UP SOMEBODY
I NEVER KNOW QUITE HOW TO SAY IT...
WELCOME TO THE REAL WORLD!
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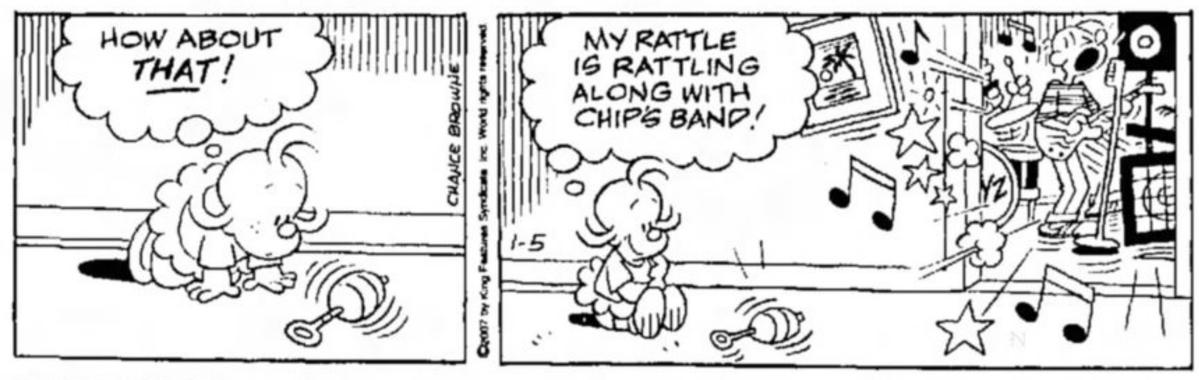
MONTY® by Jim Meddick

E-Mail: JimMeddick@aol.com

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO TALK TO A DIFFERENT WOMAN EVERY DAY UNTIL I FIND A NEW GIRLFRIEND.
REGRETTABLY MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO MAINTAIN A VOW OF SILENCE."
OK. BUT WHY ARE YOU WEARING A BLUETOOTH HANDS-FREE HEADSET?
force of habit

HI & LOIS® by Mort Walker and Dick Browne



BEETLE BAILEY® by Mort Walker

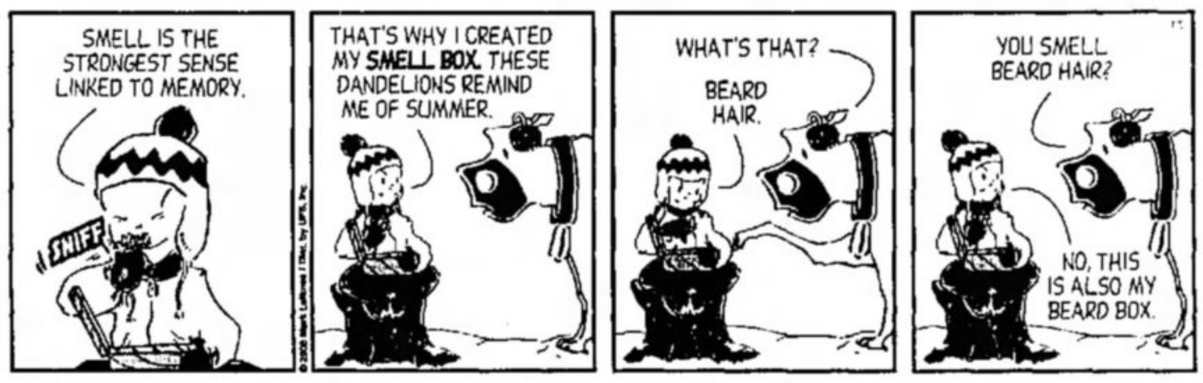
BORN LOSER® by Art Sansom

STOP PLAYING WITH THAT FLASHLIGHT—YOU COULD GET ELECTRO-CUTED!
NO I COULDN'T, POP—IT RUNS ON BATTERY POWER!
WELL, THEN, YOU COULD GET BATTERY-CUTED!
1/5

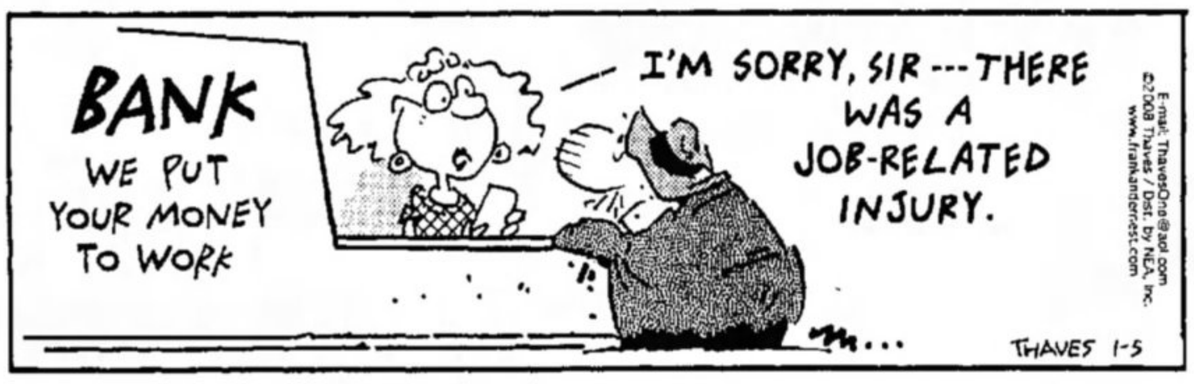
GRIZZWELLS® by Bill Schorr

AREN'T YOU EVER AFRAID OF EATING SOMETHING THAT'S BAD FOR YOU, GUNTHER?
SMACK
NOPE
I CHEW FIRST AND ASK QUESTIONS LATER
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE ALL TIME GREAT COWBOYS, YOU KNOW THAT?
YEP

COW AND BOY® by Mark Leiknes


SMELL IS THE STRONGEST SENSE LINKED TO MEMORY.
SNIFF
THAT'S WHY I CREATED MY SMELL BOX. THESE DANDELIONS REMIND ME OF SUMMER.
WHAT'S THAT?
BEARD HAIR.
YOU SMELL BEARD HAIR?
NO, THIS IS ALSO MY BEARD BOX.

FRANK and ERNEST® by Bob Thaves


BANK
WE PUT YOUR MONEY TO WORK
I'M SORRY, SIR --- THERE WAS A JOB-RELATED INJURY.
THAVES 1-5
E-mail: ThavesOne@aol.com
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HERMAN® by Jim Unger

"They should move Christmas to January — everything's cheaper."

KIT'N' CARLYLE® by Larry Wright

SOUP TO NUTZ® by Rick Stromoski

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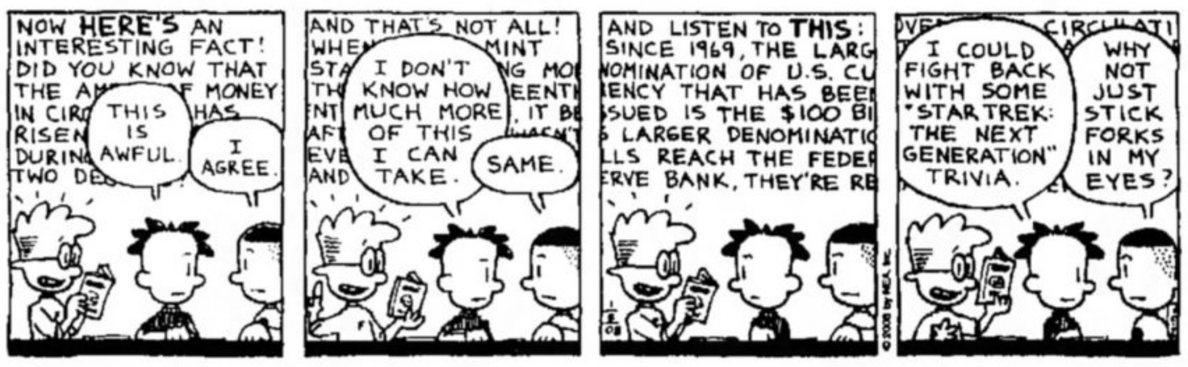
NOW HERE'S AN INTERESTING FACT! DID YOU KNOW THAT THE AM... OF MONEY IN CIR... HAS RISEN... DURING... TWO DE...
THIS IS AWFUL.
I AGREE.
AND THAT'S NOT ALL! WHEN... MINT STA... MO... TH... EENTH... AFT... IT BE... EVE... ...ASN'T AND...
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE OF THIS I CAN TAKE.
SAME.
AND LISTEN TO THIS: SINCE 1969, THE LARG... NOMINATION OF U.S. CU... ENCY THAT HAS BEE... SSUED IS THE $100 BI... LARGER DENOMINATIO... LLS REACH THE FEDE... RVE BANK, THEY'RE RE...
I COULD FIGHT BACK WITH SOME "STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION" TRIVIA.
WHY NOT JUST STICK FORKS IN MY EYES?
CIRCULATI...

KIDOKU

Each row, column and 3-by-3 box (9 squares) must contain every digit from 1 to 9 inclusive.

6	1	4	5	3	9	8	2	7
3	5	9	7	8	2	4	1	6
8	2	7	1	6	4	3	5	9
4	9	6	8	2	5	7	3	1
2	3	8	9	4	7	5	6	1
7	5	1	3	6	1	2	9	8
5	6	3	2	1	8	9	7	4
9	4	2	6	7	3	1	8	5
1	8	7	4	9	5	6	4	2

ALLEY OOP® by Dave Graue

OOP, WHAT'S WRONG? WHY THROW A FIT?
HELP ME MAKE SOME SENSE OF IT!
IT'S GONE, FOOZY! OOOLA'S PRESENT'S GONE!!
IT MUSTA FALLEN OUT THROUGH THAT HOLE IN TH' BAG!
HEH! HEH! SEEIN' ALLEY OOP IN A PANIC...
PRICELESS!
1-5-08
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MARK TRAIL® by Jack Elrod

BRICE TOLD ME WHAT THE DOCTOR SAID ABOUT THE X-RAYS...IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE!
YEAH, JUST MY LUCK...
WHEN WE ARE FINALLY ABLE TO BE TOGETHER, THIS HAPPENS...I'M SURE OLD BULL IS SMILING IN HIS GRAVE!
JACK ELROD
I SAW A MAN NAMED TRAIL LEAVING AS I CAME IN...WHAT DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT US?

The Valley Independent Crossword

ACROSS

1 Pasture sound
4 Counterfeit
8 Blow gently
12 House addition
13 "Murder by Death" actor
14 One of the Great Lakes
15 Copied
17 Soap target
18 Petite
19 Party cheese
20 Conniving
21 "The Bells" poet
22 Socrates' pupil
25 Dearer, as memories
28 Rushed off
29 Become boring
31 Caviar
33 Slugger Mel —
34 Throw out the duds
36 First space lab
37 Flower child
40 Egg shapes
42 Bottle top
43 On the — vive
44 Watery
46 Hint
49 Synthesizer inventor
50 Traffic problem
53 Calcutta nanny
54 Hawser
55 Sol
56 Coming up
57 Antarctic sea
58 Plaything

DOWN

1 Winged insect
2 Fakir's income
3 Grad
4 Tasty mollusk
5 Angrily
6 Poker card
7 In style
8 Kind of bliss
9 Diva's melody
10 Mattress category
11 New Year in Hanoi
16 Endure
19 Geological period
21 Survey
22 Paid performer
23 Slat
24 Opposed
25 Chimney pipe
26 Ms. Bombeck
27 Churn up
30 Sour
32 Uh cousins
35 Noted pilgrimage site
38 Dilemma
39 Lapel ornament
41 Perfume holder
43 Swab brand
44 Large, heavy book
45 Practical joke
47 Layer of paint
48 Mike problem
49 Chess piece
50 Menacing sound
51 Outback jumper
52 Ballard or Starr

Answer to Previous Puzzle

Z	O	O		E	C	O			S	P	A	
E	A	U		L	A	M	B		I	C	O	N
E	H	S		E	T	N	A		G	O	U	T
	U	T	E	N	S	I	L		U	R	N	S
			R	A	P		E	L	A	N	D	
Y	I	P	E		A	P	R	O	N			
O	R	E		A	W	E		R	A	T	T	Y
W	E	A	R	Y		K	I	D		E	V	E
			A	L	I	E	N		Z	E	S	T
	C	A	C	A	O		C	H	E			
P	A	L	I		T	A	L	O	N	E	D	
I	S	L	E		A	X	I	S		E	A	R
T	I	E	R		S	E	N	T		L	Y	E
S	O	Y				L	E	A		S	O	X

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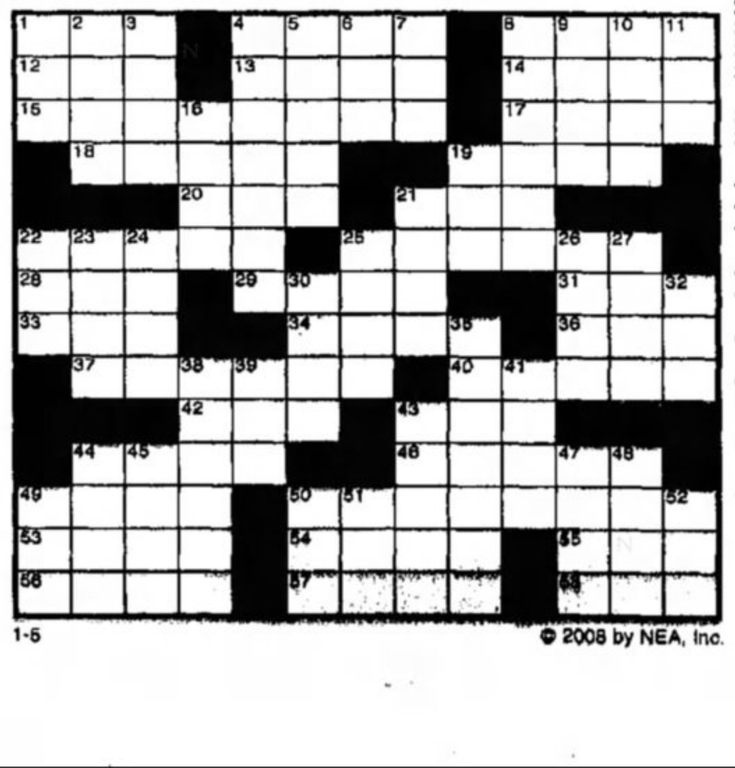

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SUNDAY: 11AM, Wednesday

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ASTRO GRAPH
Bernice Bede Osol

Your Birthday
SUNDAY, JAN. 6, 2008

Although you are likely to have two totally unrelated ambitions on your agenda in the year ahead, you will be very capable of advancing both, as long as you allocate adequate time. Keep your priorities in good order.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Friends will end up being a hindrance rather than a help, so think twice before asking or accepting assistance for something you're quite capable of taking care of yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) -- It's very nice of you to do a favor for a friend, but be wary of making this person regret accepting your help. Without realizing it, you may make your pal feel more indebted than s/he should.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) -- Keep a low profile in your group involvements by being one of the crowd instead of trying to run the show. Your friends will appreciate it far more if there is no one dictating them around.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) -- Keep your pride from causing you to fight for something that is truly meaningless. It'll only make you look bad in the eyes of your peers and lower your self-esteem.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -- Remember that the views or opinions of others are just as important to them as yours are to you. Don't attempt to belittle them in order to make yourself look right.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) -- If you're in an arrangement that is costing you more than it makes, don't pour good money after bad. Bite the bullet, take the loss and get out before it cost you more.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) -- Look in the mirror first to see if there is a culprit hiding in there before you start pointing a finger of blame at a good friend. Be honest about it and do your part to straighten out the trouble.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Don't be pressured into helping another carry out something that you don't approve of. Not only could it make trouble for you, but you will also hate yourself for being such a wimp.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Just because a friend of yours is having trouble with a mutual pal, doesn't mean you have take sides. When they make up, you will be the one who is left being on the outs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Be sure not to bring home any outside problems that you have. Don't take things out on the family, as they are not responsible for your frustrations and don't deserve to be trashed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) -- If you set yourself up as an authority on a particular subject, you had better be prepared to prove what you say. You will be held accountable for what transpires as a result.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) -- Should you be pressed for a loan by someone you like but whom you know is a risk, don't think you have to comply just because you were asked. Find a way to politely say, "No."

1000/GENERAL

RETAIL

Be a Star on Our Team!

ALDI is The Pioneer in the limited assortment grocery store concept and we are interviewing for

CASUAL CASHIERS
$9.75/HR
(UNDER 20 HRS/WK – NO BENEFITS)

We are looking for new team players like you- bright, shining, self-motivated, disciplined team members who can deliver the best service.

If interested in joining an international company operating over 850 stores with-in the United States. Come in to apply in person.

OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR BELLE VERNON, PA STORE
MUST BE WILLING TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, PA

Apply in person
Thursday, January 10th
8am-12pm & 2pm-6pm
At ALDI Foods
772 Rostraver Road
(K-Mart Plaza)
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

To Learn more about Aldi, Visit us at: www.ALDI.com

If YOU have:
- A desire to succeed
- An above average work ethic
- Prompt and courteous customer service
- Availability to work between 5am-10pm, 7 days a week
- Ability to prioritize tasks
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs
- Basic math skills
- A high school diploma or GED
- A GREAT ATTITUDE

Then WE have:
- Above average starting salary
- Excellent hours that let you spend your Holidays with your family and friends
- Company paid uniform shirts
- A GREAT TEAM

ALDI

We are an equal opportunity employer. No Phone Calls Please. Must be 18 years or older to apply.

1000/GENERAL

CIRCULATION ASSISTANTS
Opportunities to Join a Winning Team!

The Tribune-Review Publishing Company has open positions for Part-time Circulation Assistants.

Currently an exciting opportunity exists for the right individual. A chance to earn, learn and advance.

- Steady Part-time, approx 30 hrs /wk.
- Early morning hours
- Delivery & customer service skills necessary
- Work Independently
- Competitive wage & auto allowance

If interested, call Ken Planinsek at
724-850-2826
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

CLEANING PERSON- general house cleaning. Apply in person, Trombino Music Center, 1049 Broad Ave., Belle Vernon

COOKS & Drivers exp. preferred. Apply in person Monessen Armando's, Mon Valley Shopping Plaza

DOWN ROUTE DRIVER
Part-time position, approximately 25 hrs / week. Assist district managers with the delivery of newspapers to subscribers on routes that temporarily have no carrier. Must possess valid PA driver's license and reliable vehicle. Hourly rate plus mileage. Applications available at The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062 or email your resume to lhutchison@tribweb.com

EMT/ Security Officers
Monessen, Washington and Jefferson Hills Areas
Full & Part Time
Paid Vacations and Holidays
Hospitalization Available
Uniforms Provided
U.S Security Associates, Inc.
412-257-5967 ext. 202
www.greatguards.com
AA/EEO

EXPERIENCED AUTO BODY TECHNICIAN or PAINTER
Full-time
Call 724-239-4500

FOSTER FAMILIES wanted who will open their hearts and homes to foster children of all ages. Reimbursement, support and training provided. Call 1-800-747-3807

INSTRUCTOR
Laurel Business Institute is seeking a part-time Instructor to teach allied health classes Monday through Friday mornings. RN and teaching experience preferred. Send resume & salary requirements to: csantore@laurel.edu or mail to LBI HR, P.O. Box 877, Uniontown, PA 15401

MENTAL RETARDATION PROGRAM AIDE
Local human services agency has immediate PART-TIME opening to work with adults with mental retardation in a community based therapeutic day program. High School diploma or GED required. Experience desirable. Interested candidates should send letter of interest to PO Box 66, Charleroi, PA 15022, attention: Department 0804. For additional information, log on to our home page address at www.sphs.org. Our e-mail address is postmaster@sphs.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

MH/MR Support Staff
Laurel Highlands Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization that supports persons with MH/MR developmental disabilities, is currently seeking part-time and full-time support staff to work in our community homes in the West Newton, Turkeytown Rd., New Stanton, and Elizabeth areas. No experience is necessary. Paid training. Must be at least 18 years of age and have valid PA driver's license. Starting rate is $8.63/hour with benefits after 90 days, increase to $8.86/hr. after 6 months. EOE. Call ONLY Mon.-Fri., 9-3pm. 412-825-9141.

LOOKING FOR A NEW PAD? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

1000/GENERAL

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS
MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2008
DONORA CAREER LINKS
570 Galiffa Drive, Donora, PA

Openings exist for the following:

- **Welder** with ability to weld steel plate and read blueprints starting @ $12/hr. Must have formal training and exp. Openings also exist for exp. MIG, TIG & Stick Welders starting @ $13.50 /hr. in union environment. (Washington Areas)
- **Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer** to operate L90 Volvo Hi Lift/Loader and perform laboring duties working daylight shift. (Mon Valley)
- **Construction Laborer** with previous carpentry, nail gun and staple gun experience to work daylight shift @ Mon Valley location. Must be willing to work 4-10's and overtime when needed.
- **General Laborers** to work production line, fast paced, team environment working afternoon shift. Willing to work $10/hr. shifts.

Gs
1-800-485-6502 M-F
9am-4pm EOE/MF

NOTICE TO READERS:
While work-at-home and other informational advertising is often legitimate, we advise readers to fully investigate the background of any company before paying a fee. If an offer sounds "too good to be true", it probably is. Proceed with caution if you are asked to send money or in calling 900 numbers. All phone numbers prefixed by "900" are charged to the caller on a per minute or per call basis. The Valley Independent makes every effort to qualify these charges for the reader. Remember, if you have any doubts, investigate!

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANTS
Weekend and/or Day Turn
work available for
12-24
individuals
to provide personal care to the elderly, and individuals with disabilities in local areas within Fayette, Washington and Greene Counties

Caring, responsible and dependable individuals can earn $9.50/hr. New employees can earn $125 to $225 in gas cards the first month of employment. Additional benefits include time and a half for overtime (over forty hours), $11 an hour for short notice backup, $1 an hour more per hour for ongoing backup shifts, double time for designated holidays, time off benefits for part-time and full-time employees, and medical benefits for full-time staff.

Formal and informal experience preferred. Valid drivers license and proof of motor vehicle insurance required. Serious inquiries only. Please call 1-877-417-9050 Monday-Friday EOE.

REAL ESTATE Career Seminar Schedule
Coldwell Banker Tri County Realty Rostraver Twp and Washington. Join us for a free informational seminar! Call for reservations: Rostraver 724-929-8866 Washington 724-222-4225
All seminars begin at 10am
Rostraver
January 10
February 16
March 6
April 12
Washington
January 12
February 14
March 8
April 10

STEEL LAYOUT
ASME heavy industrial shop seeks experienced, energetic person. Blueprint reading & layout for tanks, pressure vessels, piping & structural. Excellent wage and benefits. 401K w/match. 100% paid life & health. Full-time, must be willing to work overtime. Drug & alcohol test & background check. Fax resume 412-384-2107 or call 412-384-2150. West Elizabeth.

LOOKING FOR A NEW PAD? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

MOTOR ROUTE DRIVER
Fallowfield Twp.
- Mon.-Sat.
- 69 Customers
- No Collections
- 1½ hours daily

724-684-2647

WAITER/WAITRESS- Apply in person at Campa's Restaurant, 864 McKean Ave., Donora. 724-379-4849.

1015/AUTOMOTIVE

SALESPERSONS
2 experienced persons needed immediately. Call Dean Allison at:
Gerry Raymond
Chrysler Jeep Dodge Subaru
724-379-7300

1025/DRIVERS

Attn: CDL-A Drivers Smith Transport. Home Time. Great Pay & Benefits. Call Us 7 Days/Week (866)265-3707 www.gosmith.net

COMPANY DRIVER- Greensburg, PA Local & OTR, competitive package. Repeat runs, CDL-A 1 yr exp. Excellent safety record. 724-244-9718

★ DRIVERS ★
Immediate Openings
Class A & B Drivers
Local and OTR
Competitive Wage & Benefit Package
Also Needed
CLASS C LABORERS
Call 1-800-537-3152

LIFT VAN DRIVERS & Taxi Drivers. Must have clean drivers license. Apply at Tri County Access, 1001 Meldon Ave., Donora.

1040/MEDICAL

Albert Gallatin Home Care & Hospice
Albert Gallatin Home Care & Hospice, a family company of TLC Health Care Services, Inc. is setting the standard for today and tomorrow as one of the nation's leading and fastest growing home health providers.

Explore one of these *great employment opportunities today!*
Registered Nurses
Full-time & Per Diem throughout service area
Physical Therapists
Full-time & Per Diem throughout service area
Director of Clinical Services
Connellsville Office
Home Health Coordinator
Masontown/ Morgantown Offices

We offer a competitive salary & benefits package including Medical/Dental/Vision/ 401(k) Savings Plan w/Employer Match, Disability Plans/ Flexible Spending Accounts/Tuition Assistance/CEU Offerings and much more!

To apply, contact Donna Grote, (P) 724-438-6660, (F) 724-438-3858, e-mail dgrote@tlchhc.com

AGHC
20 Highland Park Drive
Uniontown, PA 15401
EOE

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT, YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

1040/MEDICAL

REGISTERED NURSE SUPERVISOR
Long-term care facility accepting applications for FT/PT all shifts.
Competitive starting wage, insurance benefits, 401K & vacation/holiday package.
Convenient location (off Routes 43 & 88).
For more information call 724-310-1111.
Send resume to:
MON VALLEY CARE CENTER
200 STOOPS DRIVE
MONONGAHELA, PA 15063
OR VISIT US AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS
EOE

CNA
Full/Part-time
Mon Valley Care Center accepting CNA applications for daylight, afternoon, and midnight shifts. Competitive salary, insurance benefits, vacation/ holiday package, and 401K.

Join the Valley's most dynamic nursing team

Visit or
Send Resumes to:
Mon Valley Care Center
200 Stoops Drive
Monongahela, PA 15063
or fax to
724-310-1195
E O E

Nursing
RNs (3-11pm) & LPNs (11am-7pm)

There's never been a better time to join Eldercrest Nursing Center in Munhall. *Come be a part of our nursing team!* We can offer a competitive pay rate and exceptional benefits! So check us out... you'll be glad you did. EOE

Interested Candidates Contact:
Kurt Conrath
1-800-395-5000 ext. 8759
Fax: 414-292-4314
kconrath@extendicare.com
www.extendicare.com

OFFICE HELP for local physician's office, part-time may lead to full-time. Front & back office experience a plus. Reply to Box 833 c/o The Valley Independent Eastgate 19, Monessen, PA 15062

SECRETARY/Medical Assistant full-time, for busy medical office in Belle Vernon. Front & back office exp. 401K. Send resume to P.O. Box 660, Belle Vernon, PA 15012-0660.

1050/SALES

OUTSIDE SALES REPS
Full or Part Time
Flexible Hours
Excellent Income Potential

We are looking for aggressive, results-oriented salespeople to join our team to market Home Delivery of
Tribune-Review Publishing Company
Crew leader, storefront and door-to-door positions are available
Please call 412-610-6378
9am-5:30pm Monday
8am-3pm Tues & Wed
8am-12 Thursday
Closed Friday

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

DONORA ROUTE OPEN
100's McKean and Thompson
17 Papers
Call Melissa at 724-684-2647

MONESSEN
--Routes Open--
1st, 2nd, Reed Ave.
21 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2648
* * * * * * * *
Forest, Ontario
17 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! ONLY IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

BUY IT! SELL IT! FIND IT! CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

1110/BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

MONESSEN CARRIER WANTED
1st St. 400's
2nd St. 400's
10's-200's Reed Ave.
21 Customers
No Collections
Call 724-684-2648 or 724-684-2600

MONESSEN CARRIERS WANTED
19 Papers
Monday-Saturday
Eastgate High Rise
Parente Blvd.
No Collections
Call 724-684-2648

MONESSEN MOTOR ROUTE OPEN
1 Hour A Day
Mon.-Sat.
Approx. $270 A Month
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647 or 724-684-2648

MONESSEN ROUTES OPEN
Frye, McGeary, Page St., Scott Ave.
17 Papers
* * * * * * *
Anna Ave., Moffat, Pride, Ross St.
18 Papers
* * * * * * *
Washington Dr., Anderson, Hartung, Service Lane
28 Papers
No Collecting
Call Melissa at 724-684-2647

MONESSEN ROUTES OPEN
Athalia, Dennis
31 Papers
No Collecting
Call 724-684-2647

ROUTES AVAILABLE
Tribune Review
✓ California
✓ Bentleyville
✓ Ellsworth Area
Call Jason at 724-272-4437 or Bill at 412-523-2306

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Besedick, Katherine
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of KATHERINE BESEDICK late of Belle Vernon Borough, Fayette County, Pennsylvania

Letters Testamentary upon the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to all those indebted thereto to make immediate payment and to all those having claims or demands to present them for settlement and/or consideration by the undersigned.

Irene K. Fatalios
Co-Executrix
146 Sacred Heart Road
Monongahela, PA 15063

Josephine Nabozny
Co-Executrix
1 Middleland Avenue
Apt. 604
N. Charleroi, PA 15022

Richard C. Mudrick
Attorney at Law
300 Fallowfield Ave
Charleroi, PA 15022
12/22,29,1/5

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Conn, Lewis
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on the estate of LEWIS CONN, late of the Township of Rostraver, Westmoreland County, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same to present them without delay to

Alex Conn
P.O. Box 124
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
And
Ralph Conn
187 Airport Road
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
Co-Executors

Jack I. Bergstein
Esquire
Bergstein & Galper, PC
409 Schoonmaker Ave.
P.O. Box A
Monessen, PA 15062
12/22,29,1/5

Haluschak, Ruth M.
ESTATE NOTICE

Estate of RUTH M. HALUSCHAK, late of North Charleroi Borough, Washington County, Pennsylvania

Letters Testamentary upon the above estate having been granted to the undersigned, notice is hereby given to all those indebted thereto to make immediate payment and to all those having claims or demands to present them for settlement and/or consideration by the undersigned.

Theodore E. Haluschak
Co-Executor
164 State Street
Charleroi, PA 15022

Sandra M. Poet
Co-Executor
4413 Little Creek Trail
Spicewood, TX 78669

Richard C. Mudrick
Attorney at Law
300 Fallowfield Ave
Charleroi, PA 15022
12/22,29,1/5

Rhodaback, Gerald
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters of Administration on the Estate of Gerald C. Rhodaback, late of the Borough of North Belle Vernon, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, deceased, having been granted by the Register of Wills of Westmoreland County, notice is hereby given to all persons indebted to said estate to make immediate payment, and to those having claims against the same present them without delay to

Dorothy J. Kostelac
Administratrix
1128 Third Street
Fayette City, PA 15438

Alan Benyak, Esquire
401 Sixth St. at
Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 1
Charleroi, PA 15022
12/29,1/5,12

2030/MEETING NOTICES

MEETING NOTICE

A meeting for general purposes and the Annual Reorganization of the Southwest Regional Police Board will be held at 10 Main Street, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 on Tuesday, January 8, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.

Lynn R. Flower
Recording Secretary
1/5

NOTICE

A Reorganization meeting for the Washington Township Auditors will be held on Tuesday, January 8th, 2008 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building.
1/5

4000/ADOPTION

ADOPT
Family focused devoted married couple longs to adopt your newborn. We promise to provide a loving warm financially secure home. Expenses paid. Please Call Christina & Bill at
1-888-290-9050

ADOPTION
Adoption is a courageous decision for you. We promise a life of love, safety, security to your precious newborn. Exp. pd. Laurie & Martin 1-866-202-4737 X 1025

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

4 PLOTS at Mon Valley Memorial Park Garden of Devotion. $2,330. Call 724-929-5911

4070/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? LOSE SOMETHING? Place your lost & found ad FREE. Runs 4 days at no charge. Call 724-684-5200.

LOST money clip with money vicinity of Shop 'N Save, Rostraver. Reward. Call 724-930-7970

4100/PERSONALS

$195 DIVORCE COMPLETE
No Fault Uncontested
Reisman & Davis, Pgh
No Court Appearance or Travel To Office
Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE & PREGNANT?
A Confidential Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

HARLEY DAVIDSON leather & wool jacket XL, excellent condition. $143.00 724-872-0151

WOMEN'S CLOTHES- plus size, size 18-22 $15 for the bag. Call 724-797-2453

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK OUT PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

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TELEVISION
MAGAZINES
INTERNET
PENNYSAVERS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

REAL ESTATE

3000/OPEN HOUSES

QUALITY COSTS LESS at BASTIAN HOMES!

NOW, It Is Really The Best Time To Build Your New Home!

Lower interest rates, Little or no money down
Plus positive equity the day you move in!

What Are You Waiting For?

4 Bedroom Home

- 2,016 Total Sq. Ft.
- 4 Bedrooms
- 2 1/2 Baths
- 2 Car Garage

Bring this ad into your local sales office and receive a discount on your new home to be built this Spring!

*Lot, site work & permits additional

Over 100 House Plans Available

BASTIAN HOMES
1244 MALL RUN RD.
UNIONTOWN MALL
UNIONTOWN, PA
724-437-4451
www.bastiancustomhomes.com
254097

OPEN SUN., 1-4pm
HUNTINGDON- 225 Painter Rd 3 bedroom 2 bath 2 story on 1.5 acres $225,000 Dir: 51S to 70E Smithton Exit 49 L on Dutch Hollow Rd changes to Fitz Henry Rd R on Painters Mike Bobin

Howard Hanna
Simon Real Estate Services
(724) 929-2970

3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

DONORA
80 Thompson Ave $49,000 2 story frame house with covered front & back porch, 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, carport, nice residential setting Call D&P Realty at 724-225-7275

3065/FOR SALE/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON 4 bedroom 2 bath garage, a/c NEW everything! $93,500 724-309-7678

CALL FOR DETAILS
ROSTRAVER TWP 4 bedroom handmade brick and cedar Has skylights large rooms exposed bam beams 2 balconies 3.5 acres + much more Asking $249,900
ROSTRAVER TWP 3 bedroom multi-level brick with a country location Custom built-solid home Price includes a 2 bedroom ranch for the in-laws A great bargain for $149,900

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-929-2180

MONESSEN 2 bed, living room, dining room, kitchen, new furnace, roof, hot water tank $14,000 724-684-8191

LOOKING FOR A NEW RIDE? FIND IT HERE. CLASSIFIEDS WORK!

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

BARGAINS FOR THE NEW YEAR

--Spacious 3 bedroom gas stove & dishwasher included Home Warranty Priced to sell $29,900 Call Ruthie 412-389-4896

--Three bedroom 2 baths newer furnace & air, circuit breakers Great Buy! $54,900 Call Sherry 724-797-1309

--Build your dream home 2 lots for one price Carroll Twp $21,900 Call Ruthie 412-389-4896

--Well maintained Cape Cod on corner lot Detached garage, enclosed sunporch Move-in ready Priced to sell! $68,900 Call Linda 724-713-5235

Prudential Preferred Realty
724-929-7228

LOOKING FOR A FRIEND? CHECK THE PET DIRECTORY. CLASSIFIEDS WORK! TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

BRICK CAPE
Immaculate 3 bedroom hardwood floors new cherry kitchen with ceramic flooring All this on a park like lot with pool and waterfalls A backyard paradise $89,900

VICTORIAN BEAUTY
5 bedroom turn of the century Victorian Completely redone top to bottom Fully applianced kitchen A must see at $139,900

View Our Homes On Comcast Cable EXT Channel #1 Showtimes AM 1:25 & 6:25 PM 12:25 7:25 & 10:25

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
201 ASSOCIATES
724-929-1370

CALL FOR DETAILS
MONESSEN Charming brick ranch on corner treed lot A must see call today for details $89,900
CHARLEROI Fully rented duplex 3 bedrooms and 1 ½ baths on each side, also full basement on each side $70,000
FALLOWFIELD TWP Call to see this charming 3 bedroom with large yard and covered front porch A must see $129,900

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-483-3004

CALL FOR DETAILS
CHARMING 2 bedroom Cape Cod Large living room Deck Great front porch $44,921
GREAT lot for modular Slab & all utilities are there Asking $17,321
GREAT business opportunity Fully equipped pizza shop with upstairs apartment Asking $58,921

Century 21
FRONTIER REALTY
724-348-7470

DON'T HAVE IT. YOU DON'T NEED IT. CLASSIFIEDS

Need a VACATION? Find it in Outdoor Adventures. CLASSIFIEDS
TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3070/CONDOS

Cedar Hills Condos & Villas Inc.

Prices Starting At
*Single Family Homes-$250,000
*Lots $45,000-$63,000
*2BR Condos-$179,900
*3BR Condos $199,900
Villas-$245,000

NORTHWOOD REALTY SERVICES
201 ASSOCIATES
724-929-1370

3540/APTS-RENT/FAYETTE

BELLE VERNON full bath kitchen, living area, 1 bedroom parking $220+ utilities security deposit No pets References 724-929-5544

FAYETTE CITY 2 bedroom, all on one floor, remodeled, no pets no exceptions $350 Security, references Call 8-5pm 724-736-0824

PERRYOPOLIS- nice 2 bedroom Affordable rent Call Great Dane Realty 724-684-9600

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA
1 Bedroom Bungalow
Clean
Nice Neighborhood
-AND-
2 Bedroom Apartment
724-746-3997

CHARLEROI- 1 bedroom Includes water, electric, parking, stove & refrigerator $320 Call 724-483-0939

CHARLEROI-large clean 1 bedroom apts new carpet, furnished. $275-$325, 1 mo. free. David 1-888-477-9773

CHARLEROI
1 & 2 bedroom apts for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer $325-$400 Security deposit. No pets
724-292-1189
724-396-1140

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom downtown, 2nd floor, no pets. All appliances & utilities inc $550+ security 724-244-2966

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, huge rooms, very clean Call 1-877-890-3863 $300+ utilities 1st mo FREE w/ security dep & lease

CHARLEROI 2 bedroom, off street parking, remodeled $355+ utilities & security Call 412-523-6079

CHARLEROI 2 Apts 1 bedroom & 1 efficiency $250-$325 water & sewage inc 1st mo rent & security deposit 724-417-4118

SHOP IN YOUR PJS. 24 HOURS A DAY TRIBCLASSIFIEDS.COM TRIB TOTAL MEDIA

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI Lockout St Apts 1 & 3 bedroom starting at $335+ security Free water & sewage Fully equipped kitchen, off-street parking, large rooms, many updates Credit check required 724-746-8817

DONORA APTS.
724-379-5265
1 Bedroom Apartments
HUD Assisted For Those Who Qualify
EQUAL HOUSING

3560/APT-RENT/WMLD.

BELLE VERNON 4 rooms + bath Rostraver Rd $375+ security + 1/3 utilities 724-929-3549 or 724-929-5829

BELLE VERNON- 2 bedroom, small kitchen bath, living room, porch 2 car garage $350+ utilities 724-823-0750

VAN METER 4 rooms & bath, utilities included $600/mo Security required 724-872-7895

3561/APT-RENT/OTHER

MONONGAHELA
Modern 1 bedroom apartment Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, storage, security $350 + electric Call 412-257-0902

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE

BELLE VERNON- nice neighborhood, 5 rooms 2 bedrooms 2 baths, laundry room $300+ utilities & security No pets 724-929-3453 724-288-1520

BROWNSTOWN ½ duplex, 1 bedroom $300 + $300 deposit Utilities not included 724-469-2122

N BELLE VERNON- 2 bedroom, newly remodeled, living room family room, kitchen bath, c/a, laundry facility $600+ utilities No pets 724-929-8733

3620/HSE-RENT/WASHINGTON

DONORA- Spragg St very clean, remodeled 2 bedroom Basement No pets $400+ utilities 724-875-4008

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